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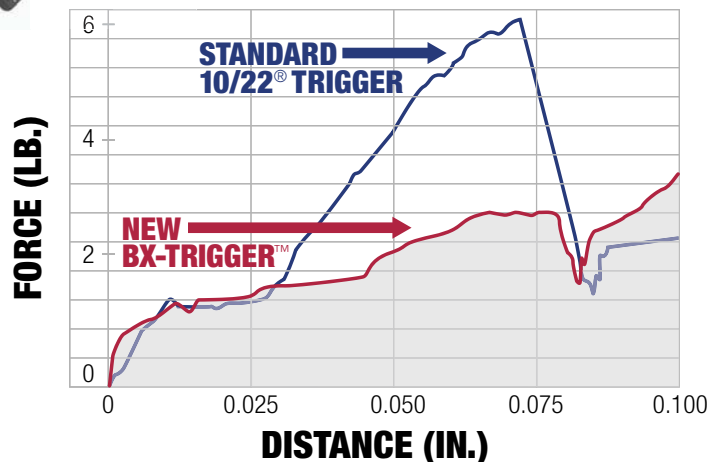
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*By James E. House*

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Photo courtesy of RUGER

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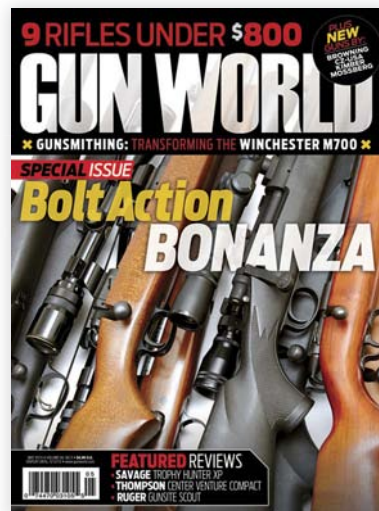
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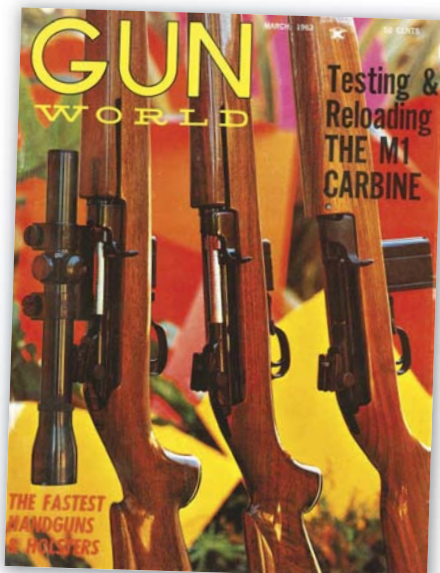
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ON THE COVER:  
Photograph by  
Terrill Hoffman  
Cover design by  
Eric Knagg



▲ Our March 1963 cover pictured three rifles. Two were customized GI carbines (left and center) and Universal Firearms manufactured the other.

## Rifling Through

By Craig Hodgkins

If you read this magazine regularly — and I hope you do — you'll know that I'm a bit of a history buff. As such, one of my favorite things to do each month is read through several back issues of Gun World as research for the Back Pages column.

One of the things I've always noticed in my reading is the relatively high number of rifle reviews, articles and advertisements. And that's just the contents. In 1964 alone, eight of our covers featured

rifles and one other displayed a pair of shotguns.

Of course, of those same twelve covers, seven depicted people using or holding the guns in the field, but that's a different topic for a different time.

Clearly, rifles of all types have long comprised a big portion of the firearms market, and if they still do today (and I believe they do), why don't we picture them on our magazine covers more often?

One reason I've heard is that handguns (and, to a lesser extent, ARs) photograph better, and the argument does make some sense. The format of a magazine is such that it favors shorter barrels and more compact items, and since our editorial schedule usually seeks to offer at least one review of a handgun, a rifle and a shotgun each month, we usually roll with a handgun on the cover.

But this month, we're throwing caution to the wind with a "Bolt Action Bonanza" issue. Not only are we running a photo of a whole batch of bolt action rifles on the cover, we've dedicated just about every page in the magazine to them, with the one exception being (logically) Dave Workman's regular Handguns column.

I hope you enjoy it, but let us know either way.

It also struck me the other day that there is one thing I've never seen in an older back issue, and that is a letter from the editor.

Maybe those guys really were on to something.

*CRAIG*

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### EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief: Craig Hodgkins  
Associate Editor: Lee Boyd  
Managing Editor: Mark Heisser  
Senior Creative Director: Eric Knagg  
Art Director: Johann Frederick Mendoza

### CONTRIBUTORS

Todd BURGESS, Jerry Catania, Mike Dickinson, Brad Fitzpatrick, Paul Hantke, James House, Jameson Parker, D.K. Pridgen, John Raguso, Steve Sieberts, Dave Spaulding, Tom Tabor, Chuck Taylor, Leroy Thompson, Martin Topper, Dave Workman

### ADVERTISING

Gabe Frimmel: Ad Sales Director  
(714) 200-1930 [GFrimmel@EngagedMediaInc.com](mailto:GFrimmel@EngagedMediaInc.com)  
Casey Clifford: Senior Account Executive  
(714) 200-1982  
Mark Pack: Senior Account Executive  
(714) 200-1939  
Jennifer Merriday: Ad Traffic Coordinator

### DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

John Bartulin (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746  
Ryan Lauro (866) 866-5146 ext. 2756

### OPERATIONS

Gus Alonzo: Newsstand Sales & Marketing Manager  
Celia Merriday: Newsstand Analyst  
Mohit Patel: Newsstand & Production Analyst  
Alberto Chavez: Senior Logistics & Facilities Manager  
John Cabral: Creative Graphic Designer

### EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, #200  
Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
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Nick Singh: Executive Director  
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The Ruger BX-Trigger is a fast and easy upgrade to your stock 10/22. It can cut factory trigger pull weights in half with just a few minutes of work.

# RUGER BX-Trigger

Text & Photos by Tim Stetzer

## A Fast & Affordable Upgrade For Your 10/22

I grew up shooting a Ruger 10/22, and I probably put more rounds through that rifle than any other rifle or pistol I've ever owned. My dad picked one up back in late 1974, and it served me and my brother well throughout our youth and into our adult lives. When my father passed away, that 10/22 was handed down to me, and soon it will start serving my kids as they learn to shoot.

But since the rifle is over 40

years old, I was sure it could use a bit of a tune up before being put to work for another generation of the family, so I started giving it the once over to see what it needed. New optics are on the list and possibly a new barrel. The finish is quite worn, although it still shoots well.

When I put the trigger on my trigger gauge, I was honestly shocked to see that it clocked in at over 8 pounds. I guess I just got used to it when I was growing up,

but after seeing that I decided that a better trigger might be a good place to start. Fortunately, the upgrade project coincided with Ruger releasing their new BX-Trigger, so it made sense to pick one up and start with that.

With over 5 million 10/22s made to date, there's certainly a vibrant market for upgrade parts. In fact, there are probably more upgrade and add-on parts for the 10/22 available than for any other firearm. That includes a lot of very good drop-in trigger upgrades. So why would Ruger enter an already crowded market with their own product? Well, at least a couple of reasons as I see it.

First off, although the market is





▲ Only two tools are needed to swap the older trigger for the new: a drift punch and a screwdriver.

crowded there are still a LOT of guns out there, so there's still plenty of market share to go around. Second, a lot of folks feel safer using factory parts on their guns. As you'd imagine, the BX-Trigger is a Genuine Ruger Factory Accessory and is guaranteed to meet or exceed industry drop test standards. Third, Ruger is offering these kits at an MSRP of only \$89.95, which is less than half the price of many other trigger kits on the market.

Installation of the kit is very easy. Ruger provides the whole lower assembly self-contained and secured by a plastic cover that allows you to safely dry fire the trigger and test it before you buy. They advertise the trigger kit as providing a 2.5- to 3-pound trigger pull, a good improvement over current factory triggers that come in around 6 pounds. The BX-Trigger also includes an extended magazine release, so you get that as an added upgrade as well.

To swap out the trigger simply flip your rifle over, remove the barrel band if you have one on your 10/22, unscrew the stock retention screw and pull the stock off, leaving the

barreled action upside down on your workbench. Once that's done drift out the two pins that secure the trigger assembly to the receiver and take out the old assembly. Remove the plastic block from the BX-Trigger, drop it in place and pop your two pins back in. Replace the stock and you're done! It only takes a couple minutes to swap out the parts and the only tools you need are a screwdriver and a drift punch.

Now, as I mentioned, Ruger advertises the BX-Trigger as providing a trigger pull in the 2.5- to 3-pound range. When I tested my trigger after installation it was very crisp with a short reset although mine came in closer to the 3.5-pound range. Keep in mind, though, that my gun started a little heavier than current guns, so perhaps that had something to do with it.

Either way, a quick swap let me cut the trigger weight down to less than half of what it was and added an extended mag release in the process, all for under \$90. I'll take it. And if you've got a stock 10/22 lying around that you'd like to upgrade, I suggest you take a look at the BX-Trigger too! **GW**



▲ Once installed, the BX-Trigger provides a lighter, crisper trigger pull as well as an extended mag release, and all for a much lower price than most of the competition.



▲ The BX-Trigger comes in a plastic sleeve that keeps all the parts in place and allows you to test the trigger safely before you buy. Simple instructions walk you through swapping out your old trigger assembly for the new one.

**CONTACT**

**Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.**

Ruger.com

## ASK the EXPERTS

We do the research so you don't have to.



Thompson firing the select-fire Ruger AC556 upon which the French AMD is based.

# French *Mini*

**Question:** After the terrorist murders in Paris at the Charlie Hebdo newspaper office and the kosher grocery store, I saw military personnel carrying the bullpup FAMAS rifle, but I also saw many of the police carrying a blued rifle with a wooden stock that looked like a Ruger Mini-14. Was that what it was?

**Leroy Thompson Answers:**

You are correct on both counts. The French paras were carrying the FAMAS, while some of the French police deployed in the area were carrying the Mousqueton A.M.D. (Armements et Moyens de Défense), the French version of the Mini-14 used by various French law enforcement agencies.

Produced on license from Ruger, the AMD has a rubber butt pad, sling cutouts in the stock, and a cocking handle that is different from that on Rugers. It is a select fire weapon that uses the fire control system of the Ruger AC556.

In the photos I've seen, they appeared to have 20-round magazines in the carbines.

*Victor H., New Orleans, LA*

### Our May Expert:

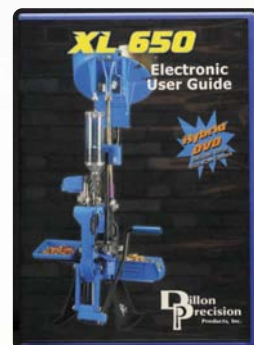
**Leroy Thompson** is an internationally recognized authority on weapons and tactics, and is the author of more than 50 books. His most recent feature on the HK MP5 appeared in our March issue.



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# Follow-up **SHOT**

Text & Photos by Brad Fitzpatrick

New firearms tend to steal the show at SHOT, but here's a look at some great new ammo, clothing, optics and more that need to be in your sights for 2015

**A**fter the curtain drops on the SHOT Show, we often find that there's too much great stuff to cram into one issue. So as a follow-up to last month's product section, here's an additional serving of great new shooting and hunting products that showed up at SHOT '15.

## NIKON MONARCH 5 RIFLE SCOPE

The Monarch 5 scope features Nikon's Extra-Low Dispersion (ED) lenses for maximum clarity as well as the new Advanced BDC Reticle, which shows bullet drop and windage adjustments on both the right and left side to compensate for a 10-mile-an-hour crosswind at that given distance. The system uses Nikon's Spot-On Ballistic technology for precision shooting, and you can order custom turrets that make long-range shooting simpler.

The impressive 5X zoom ratio provides plenty of range in magnification, and the scopes are available in 2-20x42, 2-20x50, 3-15x42, 3-15x50, 4-20x50, 5-25x50 and 6-30x50 configurations. MSRPs range from \$549.95 to \$949.95.

In addition, be sure to check out Nikon's new anemometer that plugs into your smart phone and provides instant wind adjustment info using the Spot-On ballistic app. The anemometer is a must-have for long-range shooting and costs around \$35.

**Contact:**  
[NikonSportOptics.com](http://NikonSportOptics.com)





## CRIMSON TRACE CMR-206 RAIL MASTER

A growing number of competitive and recreational shooters are adding lasers to their handguns, and one of the best options is Crimson Trace's new Rail Master Universal Green Laser. This unit is designed to fit on most handguns (or shotguns, or rifles) with an M1913 Picatinny or Weaver rail, and the laser can be quickly removed and switched to another firearm.

The Rail Master features an ambidextrous on/off switch, and the compact, durable design won't cause your firearm to hang up. The new green light version is highly visible day or night, has a five-minute auto shutoff feature and is powered by a single 1/3 lithium battery. A laser is a great addition to any handgun, and the new Rail Master Green is backed by Crimson Trace's impressive warranty and batteries for life" promise.

**MSRP: \$229.**

**Contact:**  
[CrimsonTrace.com](http://CrimsonTrace.com)



## ONTARIO KNIFE COMPANY VULPINE BLADE KNIFE

The Vulpine from OKC has one mission: survival. It's a minimalist knife, made from a skeletonized piece of 5160 medium carbon steel that's phosphate-coated and wrapped with a handle made of a removable 12-foot section of paracord, another valuable survival tool. The bird's-head shape of the handle serves as a tool for digging, hammering or striking, and the drop hilt not only protects the hand but also provides leverage.

The low-profile pistol-belt webbing sheath keeps the knife close to your body, and the 4.8-inch blade has a top-to-bottom width of 1.8 inches to aid in prying. Weighing just 7.4 ounces, the durable and versatile Vulpine may just be one of the most valuable pieces of survival equipment that you keep in your pack or on your body, and it manages to accomplish a wide variety of tasks for such a light tool.

**MSRP: \$92.50**

**Contact:**  
[OntarioKnife.com](http://OntarioKnife.com)

## 5.11 TACTICAL COVERT FLEX SHIRT

With their Covert Flex shirts, 5.11 offers law enforcement and concealed carry permit holders a button-up shirt that's comfortable and stylish enough to wear to the office, yet provides all the tactical features you'd expect from a 5.11 garment.

The cotton/polyester blend is lightweight, wicks away perspiration, and features two-way mechanical stretch for maximum comfort and mobility. It also comes with a 5.11 RAPIDDraw placket for instant access to a concealed firearm. It's available in a variety of styles and colors and has an **MSRP of \$74.99**.

If you prefer polo shirts, check out the company's Pinnacle polo. It's made of snag-resistant polyester that wicks moisture and is well suited for a casual dinner, or can be worn comfortably under ballistic vests for LE professionals.

**MSRP: \$74.99.**

**Contact:**

[511Tactical.com](http://511Tactical.com)



## TRIJICON HD BINOCULARS AND SPOTTING SCOPES

According to Andrew Chilkiewicz, Marketing Manager for Trijicon, customers have been requesting that the company release spotting scopes and binoculars for years. For 2015 those customers finally get their wish with the introduction of the Trijicon HD Binoculars and HD Spotting Scopes. Both scopes feature magnesium bodies, which are lightweight and extremely durable, and both will use Fully Broadband Multi Coated Fluoride lenses for maximum clarity.

The binoculars will initially be available in 8x42 and 10x42 versions and will have an MSRP of \$799 and \$849, respectively. The new 20-80x62 spotting scope has an available 25-50x82 wide-angle eyepiece. The standard 20-80 spotting scope has an **MSRP of \$1,899**. I had a chance to use the binoculars at SHOT, and the clarity and quality of the glass is equal to more expensive rivals, making the new Trijicon HD binoculars a fantastic value in high-quality optics.

**Contact:**

[Trijicon.com](http://Trijicon.com)



## RIGHT NOW RANGE

Lightweight, inexpensive and durable, the Right Now Range is a must-have for all backyard shooters. The tough cardboard design has large bullseye targets on the base and three shelves for placing tin cans, fruits, vegetables, or anything else you deem target-worthy. The top shelf has cutouts for positioning inexpensive clay targets, and in no time you can convert your backyard range into a serious shooting course.

The lightweight design is easy to move, and there are thousands of different target combinations. You're only limited by your imagination. The design also reduces the number of times you'll have to head down range to hang targets. At \$29.99, this is a great addition to any shooting range. It works with air rifles, rimfires, centerfire rifles and handguns.

**MSRP is \$29.99.**

**Contact:**

[RightNowRange.com](http://RightNowRange.com)



## CORE 4 ELEMENTS TORRENT JACKET AND PANTS

C4E Torrent clothing may be the absolute best garments on the market for hunting in the rain. The jacket and pants are made of waterproof, breathable, 100% laminated polyester microfiber brushed tricot material that is completely seam-sealed and features strong but quiet YKK zippers. Unlike older rain gear which is bulky, hot and very noisy, the Torrent gear is extremely light and

breathable, so you'll be comfortable all day long.

Aside from keeping you dry in a downpour, the best thing about these clothes is that they're very, very quiet, so movement will not alert game. The pants feature full-length zippers and a rubber-gripped waist to prevent elastic breakdown. Both the pants and jacket zip into their own pockets, making them very easy to transport.

A vast improvement over raingear from just a few years ago, Torrent clothing is a must-have for any serious hunter, shooter or angler. They'll be in my pack next fall for sure.

**MSRP: \$169.99 (jacket), \$159.99 (pants).**

**Contact:**

[Core4Element.com](http://Core4Element.com)



## WINCHESTER DEER SEASON XP AMMUNITION

Winchester's new line of polymer-tipped hunting rifle ammunition, known as Deer Season XP, uses the company's new Extreme Point bullet with a much larger polymer tip than traditional hunting bullets. The design translates to impressive expansion and quick, clean kills on deer-sized game due to massive hydrostatic shock.

The long, polymer tip allows the bullet to retain a spritzer profile for higher ballistic coefficients and better long-range accuracy. Initially the ammunition will be loaded for .243 Winchester, .270 Win, .270 WSM, 7mm Remington Magnum, .308, .30-06, .300 Winchester Magnum and .300 WSM. Expect this new ammunition to hit shelves early in 2015 at very competitive prices.

**Contact:**

[Winchester.com](http://Winchester.com)



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The author shoots the new Savage LRH in .338 Federal.

► A close-up look at a pair of .338 Federal cartridges.



## SAVAGE INVESTS IN THE .338 FEDERAL

In 2006, when Federal announced the introduction of the new .338 Federal cartridge, there were high hopes that the slick new round would prove viable. After all, it was a design that had been in wildcat form for years (as the .338-08), developed by necking up a .308 Winchester to accept .338 bullets.

Ballistically, it's an impressive cartridge, capable of driving a 200-grain bullet at 2,700 feet per second and generating over 3,200 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. That means it provides more energy than its parent cartridge, has a relatively flat trajectory, and doesn't recoil nearly as much as the more powerful .338 Winchester Magnum.

◀ The .338 Federal Bear Hunter is one of six Savage rifles recently chambered for the now-popular round.

As good as the .338 was (and is), it was slow to win mass appeal, in part because there are so many outstanding cartridges on the market. The demand was always there, and with good reason: the versatile .338 Federal is capable of taking all but the largest and most dangerous game on the planet, fits in a short action and uses widely-available .338-inch bullets.

2015 brought some good news for .338 fans, though. Savage has announced that the company will be chambering six of their bolt-action rifles for .338 Federal, including the Model 11 Long Range Hunter (\$1,104) and Hog Hunter (\$560), the Model 16 Bear Hunter (\$1,035) and FCSS (\$885), and the Model 11 and 16 Trophy Hunter XP packages (\$612 and \$740, respectively).

I had a chance to try out the new Long Range Hunter .338 Federal at SHOT, and it was a wonderful rifle to shoot. I went through an entire magazine on the bench, hearing the staccato clang of the long-range gong every time the crisp Accutrigger broke. It's great to see that Savage has invested in the .338 Federal, and if enough of these budget-friendly, accurate rifles get into the hands of shooters and hunters there's a good chance that the .338 Federal will begin to get the credit it deserves. It's a versatile, efficient, powerful hunting cartridge that doesn't abuse the shooter's shoulder or wallet.

**Contact:**  
[SavageArms.com](http://SavageArms.com)





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# Bolt-Action *BONANZA*

Text by Lee Boyt  
Photos courtesy of the manufacturers

Despite stiff competition from semi-autos and other operating systems, bolt-action rifles continue to make their mark.

**B**olt-action rifles offer a special appeal to gun-heads of all flavors, but especially to us gearheads who feel an unnatural connection to mechanical devices and how these things work.

When shooting a bolt-action, you are a key component in the gun's operating system. You're actively involved in the shooting process, rather than a passive participant holding the trigger down until the ammo runs out.

Bolt-action rifles have been around for

well over a hundred years, literally improving as the years go by, much to the consternation of the semi-automatic folks who consider our beloved bolts to be antiquated relics of another time.

If bolt-action rifles are outdated and not suitable for today's theatres of operations, why do professional operators and hunters prefer bolt-action rifles to engage targets more than a mile away?

Because bolt-action rifles get the job done.





## Browning T-Bolt Suppressor Ready Carbon Fiber

Operation: Straight pull bolt-action  
 Caliber: 22 LR  
 Magazine capacity/type: 10 rounds, double-helix detachable rotary magazine  
 Barrel Length: 16.25 inches  
 Sights: None, drilled and tapped for scope  
 Stock: Composite, two-tone silver/carbon fiber finish  
 Finish: Blued  
 Weight (Empty): 4 pounds 9 ounces  
 Overall Length: 34.75 inches  
**MSRP \$799**

### Features:

16.25-inch medium weight free-floating barrel threaded for suppressor  
 Straight pull bolt-action  
 Top-tang safety; Adjustable trigger  
 Composite stock with textured gripping surfaces and spare magazine storage in the buttstock

### Contact

Browning  
 800-333-3288  
 Browning.com



## Browning X-Bolt Micro Midas

Operation: Short action bolt-operated repeater  
 Caliber: 22-250 Rem  
 Magazine capacity/type: 4 rounds, double-helix detachable rotary  
 Barrel Length: 20 inches  
 Sights: None, drilled and tapped for scope  
 Rails: None  
 Stock: Black walnut  
 Finish: Blued

Weight (Empty): 6 pounds 1 ounce  
 Overall Length: 38-3/8 inches  
**MSRP \$859**

### Features:

Compact package for small-framed shooters includes downsized checkered black walnut stock with three 1/4 removable spacers  
 Top tang safety  
 Adjustable feather trigger  
 Detachable rotary magazine

### Contact

Browning  
 800-333-3288  
 Browning.com



## Browning X-Bolt All Weather Left-Hand

Operation: Short action bolt operated repeater  
 Caliber: .243 Win.  
 Magazine capacity/type: 4 rounds, detachable rotary magazine  
 Barrel Length: 22 inches  
 Sights: None, drilled and tapped for scope  
 Stock: Laminate  
 Finish: Matte stainless steel  
 Weight (Empty): 6 pounds 12 ounces  
 Overall Length: 42 inches  
**MSRP \$1,199**

### Features:

Left-handed stainless steel bolt-action  
 Gray laminate stock  
 22-inch glass bedded, free-floated barrel  
 Top tang safety, bolt unlock button

### Contact

Browning  
 800-333-3288  
 Browning.com



## CZ 455 Training Rifle

Operation: Bolt-action  
Caliber: .17 HMR  
Magazine capacity/type: 5 rounds, detachable box  
Barrel Length: 24.8 inches  
Sights: Tangent adjustable sights  
Stock: Beechwood with Schnabel forend  
Finish: Blued  
Weight (Empty): 6.3 pounds  
Overall Length: 42.6 inches  
**MSRP \$399**

### Features:

455 interchangeable barrel system  
Adjustable tangent rear sight  
Adjustable trigger  
Beechwood stock with classic Schnabel forend

### Contact

CZ-USA  
800-955-4486  
Cz-usa.com



## CZ 455 Ultra Lux

Operation: Bolt-action repeater  
Caliber: .22 LR  
Magazine capacity/type: 10 rounds, detachable box  
Barrel Length: 28.62 inches  
Sights: Tangent adjustable sights  
Stock: Beechwood, European with cheekpiece  
Finish: Blued

Weight (Empty): 6.8 pounds  
Overall Length: 46.42 inches  
**MSRP \$449**

### Features:

Extra-long barrel and adjustable tangent rear sight makes this rifle a target shooter's dream gun  
455 action allows quick barrel swaps  
10-round detachable magazine  
European-style beechwood stock with cheekpiece

### Contact

CZ-USA  
800-955-4486  
Cz-usa.com



## CZ 527 Varmint Thumbhole

Operation: Bolt-action  
Caliber: .223 Rem  
Magazine capacity/type: 5 rounds, detachable box  
Barrel Length: 24 inches  
Sights: None, integral scope bases  
Stock: Turkish walnut laminate, thumbhole varmint style  
Finish: Blued

Weight (Empty): 7.8 pounds  
Overall Length: 41 inches  
**MSRP \$775**

### Features:

24-inch hammer forged barrel  
Controlled round feed and claw extractor  
Single set trigger  
Forged, square bridge receiver with integral scope mounts

### Contact

CZ-USA  
800-955-4486  
Cz-usa.com





## Kimber Adirondack

Operation: 84M Bolt-action  
 Caliber: .300 AAC Blackout  
 Magazine capacity/type: 4 rounds, internal  
 Barrel Length: 16 inches  
 Sights: None  
 Stock: Carbon fiber  
 Finish: Matte stainless steel

Weight (Empty): 4 pounds, 13 ounces  
 Overall Length: 37.25 inches  
**MSRP: \$1,768**

### Features:

Stainless steel action, threaded barrel for suppressor or muzzle brake  
 Spiral fluted bolt with full-length Mauser extractor and hollow bolt knob  
 3-position wing safety  
 Reinforced carbon fiber stock finished with Gore Optifade Concealment Forest Pattern

### Contact

Kimber Manufacturing, Inc.  
 888-243-4522  
[Kimberamerica.com](http://Kimberamerica.com)



## Kimber Advanced Tactical SRC (Suppressor Ready Compact)

Operation: 8400 Bolt-action  
 Caliber: .308 Win  
 Magazine capacity/type: 5 or 10 rounds, detachable box  
 Barrel Length: 16 inches  
 Sights: None  
 Stock: Folding aluminum

Finish: Matte black  
 Weight (Empty): 10 pounds 6 ounces  
 Overall Length: Adjustable  
**MSRP \$4,419**

### Features:

Aluminum side-folding stock with rear monopod, adjustable comb and bipod mount  
 Sub .5 MOA accuracy  
 MIL-STD-1913 rails for optics and aiming devices  
 Threaded stainless steel 16-inch barrel has a muzzle brake/suppressor adapter

### Contact

Kimber Manufacturing, Inc.  
 888-243-4522  
[Kimberamerica.com](http://Kimberamerica.com)



## Kimber Advanced Tactical II

Operation: 8400 Bolt-action  
 Caliber: 6.5 Creedmoor  
 Magazine capacity/type: 5 or 10 rounds, detachable box  
 Barrel Length: 22 inches  
 Sights: None  
 Stock: Manners MCS-TF4 folding stock  
 Finish: Desert Tan KimPro II  
 Weight (Empty): 10 pounds 10 ounces

Overall Length: 44 inches  
**MSRP \$4,351**

### Features:

Sub .5 MOA accuracy  
 Manners MCS-TF4 folding stock with adjustable comb  
 20 MOA bases, aluminum bedding block and QD sling mounts  
 Extended bolt handle has a large knob for positive operation with gloved hands

### Contact

Kimber Manufacturing, Inc.  
 888-243-4522  
[Kimberamerica.com](http://Kimberamerica.com)



Weight (Empty): 8 pounds  
Overall Length: 42.75 inches  
**MSRP \$649**

## Mossberg Patriot Rifle – Vortex Scope Combo

Operation: Bolt-action  
Caliber: .308 Win.  
Magazine capacity/type: 5 rounds, detachable box  
Barrel Length: 22 inches  
Rate of Twist: 1:10  
Sights: None (scoped model)  
Stock: Walnut  
Finish: Blued

### Features:

Button-rifled, fluted barrel with recessed crown  
Spiral-fluted bolt with new bolt angle  
Adjustable trigger  
Vortex Crossfire II 3-9X40 scope  
Dead-Hold BDC reticle

### Contact

O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.  
203-230-5300  
Mossberg.com



## Mossberg MVP LC (Light Chassis)

Operation: Bolt-action  
Caliber: 5.56 NATO/.223 Rem.  
Magazine capacity/type: 10 rounds, detachable box  
Barrel Length: 16.25 inches  
Sights: None (optics rail)  
Stock: Aluminum MDT LSS Light Chassis, Tan  
Finish: Matte blue  
Weight (Empty): 10 pounds  
Overall Length: 35.5 inches  
**MSRP \$2,102**

### Features:

The MVP LC stock contacts the receiver only on the V-shaped bedding and recoil lug area  
Threaded muzzle with removable SilencerCo Saker Trifecta muzzle-brake/QD mount is standard  
Compatible with AR15 and LR308/SR25 magazines  
Bipod and adjustable Magpul buttstock included

### Contact

O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.  
203-230-5300  
Mossberg.com



## Ruger Hawkeye Predator

Operation: Bolt-action  
Caliber: 6.5 Creedmoor  
Magazine capacity/type: 4 rounds, hinged floorplate  
Barrel Length: 24 inches  
Sights: None  
Stock: Green Mountain Laminate  
Finish: Matte stainless steel  
Weight (Empty): 8.12 pounds

Overall Length: 43.25 inches to 44.75 inches  
**MSRP \$1,099**

### Features:

Cold hammer-forged barrel  
One-piece stainless steel bolt with three-position safety  
Non-rotating, Mauser-type controlled round feed extractor  
Hinged solid-steel floorplate allows easy and safe unloading  
Green Mountain laminated stock

### Contact

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.  
603-865-2442  
Ruger.com





## Savage Landry Rascal

**Operation:** Single-shot bolt-action  
**Caliber:** .22 S, L, LR  
**Magazine capacity/type:** NA  
**Barrel Length:** 16 inches  
**Sights:** Adjustable aperture  
**Stock:** Synthetic  
**Finish:** Blued  
**Weight (Empty):** 2.66 pounds  
**Overall Length:** 31.5 inches  
**MSRP \$233**

### Features:

Synthetic camo stock dimensions fit young people well  
 Single-shot bolt-action is safe and unimimidating  
 Adjustable aperture sights make each shot count  
 Low price with high fun quotient

### Contact

Savage Arms  
[Savagearms.com](http://Savagearms.com)

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# Running with *the* **BIG GUNS**

Text & Photos by Mike Dickerson

Thompson Center's Venture Compact Has the Form,  
Fit and Function of a Longer Gun in a Practical Package



Thompson Center's Venture rifles are entry-level priced, but they all come with an MOA accuracy guarantee and are designed to resist inclement weather.





**R**iding around a 16,000-acre, low-fence ranch in a variety of vehicles packed with hunters and their gear, I quickly decided that a shorter rifle would make a handy truck gun, easier to maneuver in the tight confines of a deer blind than standard-size rifles. The gun would also be a good choice for hunters who have to bundle up under thick layers of clothing for cold-weather hunts or those who regularly hunt in thick cover, where room to maneuver is at a premium.



I was reminded of the virtues of compact rifles on a recent south-west Texas deer hunt to test the new Thompson Center Venture Compact rifle. The Compact features an ergonomic design that favors shooters of small stature, thanks to a shortened, 20-inch barrel and a stock that comes with a spacer and recoil pad that lets you adjust length of pull from 13.5 inches down to 12.5 inches.

## ■ DOWNING DEER

I put the rifle to the test the first morning of my hunt with Double T Outfitters, downing an 8-point management buck at 100 yards using a Compact chambered in .308 Win. Later that afternoon, after a short stalk, I dropped a nice (for the area) 12-point buck at 140 yards, and followed that up the next day with two does. With four shots fired and four deer bound for the freezer, it was hard to ask for more out of the Venture Compact, but I did.

I wanted to put one of the rifles through a formal test and evaluation, and Thompson Center obliged by sending me one chambered in .22-250 Rem. (The Compact is also available in .223 Rem., .243 Win., .308 Win and 7mm-08).

The test rifle was put through its paces with six different factory loads, but before I share the results, here's a closer look at what you get for your money with the Compact.

Hint: it's a real bargain.

## ■ FULL-FEATURED FIREARM

With an over-the-counter sales price of less than \$500, the Compact doesn't have some of the frills and refinements common to more expensive rifles, and it's not meant to. Venture rifles are entry-level priced, but with one important distinction: they all come with an MOA accuracy guarantee. They're also designed to resist the effects of adverse weather.

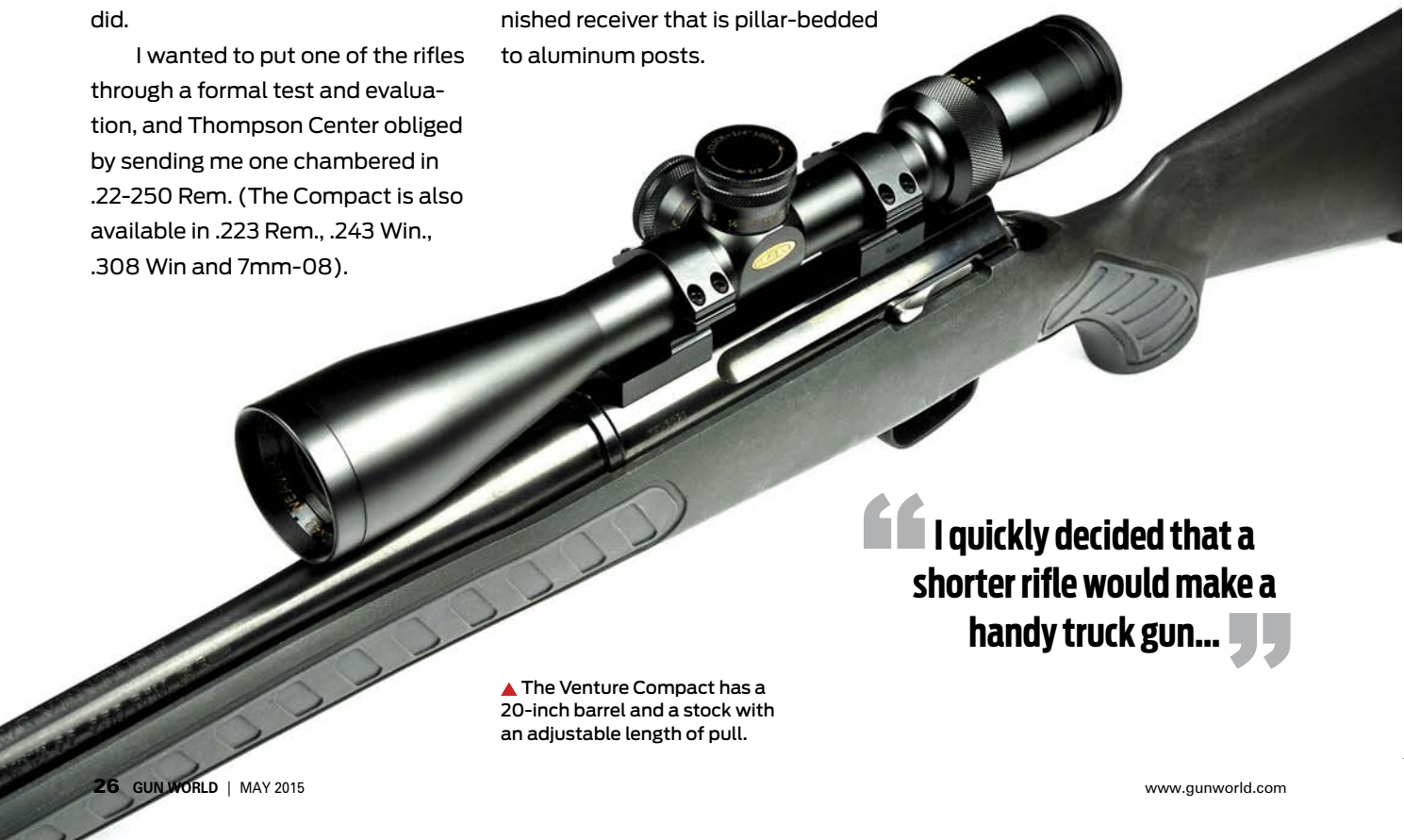
Starting at the business end, the Compact's barrel has a recessed target crown and 5R rifling for reduced bullet deformation and less copper fouling, resulting in repeatable accuracy from shot to shot and easier cleaning. The free-floated barrel mates to a roller-burnished receiver that is pillar-bedded to aluminum posts.

The black nitride-coated bolt has three lugs and a 60-degree lift that provides plenty of clearance for mounted scopes. That's a good thing because in the stock's shortest configuration, you'll need to mount the scope a bit farther forward than you may be accustomed to on standard-size rifles. The bolt cycles quite smoothly. I would go so far as to call it "slick," and that's more than can be said of many more expensive rifles.

The bolt face completely surrounds the cartridge head and employs a standard push-style ejector and T-slot extractor. In firing several hundred rounds through Venture rifles, I experienced no issues with cartridge extraction and ejection.

## ■ TRICK TRIGGER

Thompson Center says the trigger is adjustable for a pull weight of



“ I quickly decided that a shorter rifle would make a handy truck gun... ”

▲ The Venture Compact has a 20-inch barrel and a stock with an adjustable length of pull.





▲ The Venture Compact's detachable polymer magazine holds three rounds. The author experienced no issues with feeding or magazine reliability, even during several days of high-volume prairie dog shooting.

3.5 pounds to 5 pounds and provides a small Allen key that allows you to make adjustments without pulling the action out of the stock. You can adjust the trigger pull by simply removing the bolt and turning the adjustment screw in the desired direction.

The trigger on my test rifle broke consistently at 4.5 pounds, and I left it at that setting to duplicate a buyer's out-of-the-box experience. The trigger had just the tiniest hint of creep with slight finger pressure, but you had to really focus to notice it. The break was crisp and clean, and overall the trigger was a pleasant surprise. It was far better than I expected it to be.

The two-position safety is situated just behind and flush with the top of the bolt. Unlike many two-position safeties, you can operate the bolt and unload a chambered round with the safety engaged.

## ■ POLY MAG

Entry-level rifles typically employ a few tradeoffs in order to sell at a particular price. Those trade-

offs are hard to spot with the Venture line, but an obvious one is the rifle's three-round polymer detachable magazine.

If I'm going to use detachable magazines, I like mine to be made of metal. Despite that old-school bias, I'm pleased to report that I had zero feeding issues with the magazines, even while using them in marathon prairie dog shooting sessions. I would have liked more magazine capacity for that specific use, but it was no big deal to quickly swap empties for full magazines. Of course, when hunting deer-sized game, the average hunter should be able to get the job done with three rounds. If they can't, it's probably not the fault of the rifle.

## ■ STOCK TALK

There's some room for debate on the Compact's stock. Stock preferences are highly subjective, and people tend to either love or hate the stocks supplied with a particular production rifle. The Venture line,

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“ With four shots fired and four deer bound for the freezer, it was hard to ask for more out of the Venture Compact, but I did. ”



▲ The bolt has a 60-degree lift, ensuring ample clearance for mounted scopes. For testing, a Weaver Super Slam 2-10X42mm scope was installed on the rifle using Talley one-piece lightweight mounts.

## ⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

### THOMPSON CENTER VENTURE COMPACT

Action: Bolt action

Caliber: .22-250 Rem.

Stock: Black composite with Hogue rubberized grip inserts

Finish: Blued

Barrel: 20-inches, 5R rifling, 1:12 twist

Sights: None, drilled and tapped

Magazine Capacity: 3 rounds, detachable box

Length of Pull: Variable, 12.5 inches to 13.5 inches

Weight: 6.75 pounds

MSRP: \$537



▲ The trigger is adjustable to a pull weight of 3.5 to 5 pounds.



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The rifle has a two-position safety that lets you unload a chambered round with the safety engaged.

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

### THOMPSON CENTER VENTURE COMPACT RIFLE .22-250 REM.

LOAD	AVG. MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	AVG. 100-YARD GROUP (INCHES)	BEST 100-YARD GROUP (INCHES)
Barnes VOR-TX 50-gr. TSX FB	3126	1.01	0.99
Federal Fusion 55-gr.	3029	1.31	1.03
Federal Power-Shok 55-gr. SP	3057	0.88	0.44
Federal Premium Vital-Shok 60-gr. Nosler Partition	3005	1.56	1.00
Hornady Varmint Express 55-gr. V-MAX	3036	0.86	0.73
Winchester Varmint X 55-gr.	3042	1.19	0.71

*Note: Groups shot over Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 chronograph in wind ranging from 12 to 19 mph.*



including the Compact, employs a composite stock of “classic” configuration, but with some differences. In places, the stock tends to be a bit narrow and sharply rounded. Some of this is undoubtedly intended to help the rifle shed weight, and the Compact succeeds in this respect, weighing in at a trim 6.75 pounds.

The recoil pad supplied with the stock does a good job of taming recoil. Handling characteristics, especially in inclement weather, are further enhanced with the addition of Hogue rubberized panels in the grip area and the stock forend.

In the hands, the rifle feels light and well balanced. My only real objection to the stock is the fact that if you somehow manage to break the integral trigger guard, you’ll have to replace the entire stock.

## ■ ACCURACY ACCOLADES

For testing, I mounted a Weaver Super Slam 2-10X42mm scope on the rifle using Talley one-piece lightweight mounts. This combination, which is one of my favorites for

## A VENTURE FOR EVERY HUNTER

In addition to the Compact model, the TC Venture rifle is available in the standard-sized blued version with 22- or 24-inch barrels in 16 popular chamberings ranging from .204 Ruger to .338 Win. Mag. There’s also a Weather Shield model, with a weather-resistant coating, in seven calibers ranging from .22-250 Rem. to 7 mm Rem. Mag.

For just a bit more money, you can get the Venture Predator rifle, with fluted barrels and a choice of Realtree MAX-1 or Realtree AP Snow camo finish on the stock, action and barrel. It’s offered in .204 Ruger, .22-250 Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Win., .308 Rem. and 7mm-08.

My first introduction to the Venture lineup came during a multi-day prairie dog shoot last year in Wyoming, where I put a Venture Predator chambered in .204 Ruger through a rather severe test. I came away so enamored of the rifle and caliber that I bought one to add to my predator-hunting rifle collection.

Topped with the new Burris Predator Quest 3-9X40 scope in matching Realtree MAX-1 camo, and zeroed with Hornady’s Superformance 32-grain V-MAX loads, it routinely turns in 0.5-MOA or tighter groups from the bench. This rig is a sweetheart to shoot (you can see impacts through the scope), but it’s quickly proving to be a coyote’s worst nightmare.


testing rifles from the bench, has taken everything I’ve thrown at it — including being mounted on some real thumper rifles — without complaint. Knowing that any poor shooting would be entirely due to the shooter or the rifle, it didn’t take long to find out if the rifle would hold up its end of the deal.

It did, and in admirable fashion. The test rifle, like other Venture rifles I’ve fired, easily met Thompson Center’s MOA-accuracy guarantee

with ammo it likes. All six factory loads turned in best groups measuring an inch or less — and that was while shooting on a less-than-ideal windy day.

The Barnes VOR-TX 50-grain TSX load produced one-inch average groups, while Hornady’s Varmint Express 55-grain V-MAX load delivered average groups measuring 0.86 inches and a best group of less than 0.75 inches.

The pleasant surprise of the



► Wet-weather handling is great with the Hogue rubberized panels in the grip area and the stock forend.



▲ The author shot this 12-point buck while testing a Thompson Center Venture Compact rifle, in .308 Win. on a 16,000-acre low-fence Texas ranch.

group was the bare-bones Federal Power-Shok 55-grain soft point load. It printed average groups of 0.88 inches and a best group of 0.44 inches. The largest groups were turned in by the heavier Federal Vital-Shok 60-grain Nosler Partition load, which produced 1.5-inch average groups and a one-inch best group. That would still get the job done on deer-sized game with proper bullet placement.

Bullet velocities out of the 20-inch barrel were significantly less than factory-advertised velocities, but that was to be expected. Across six factory loads, velocities averaged about 600 fps slower than you can expect from longer barrels, but each load still managed to exceed 3,000 fps as measured over my Competitive Edge Dynamics M2 chronograph.

The greatest velocity loss was 704 fps registered by the Barnes VOR-TX 50-grain TSX load, while the Federal Vital-Shok load with the 60-grain Nosler Partition bullet registered the smallest velocity loss of 495 fps.

Reduced bullet velocities certainly didn't affect the hunt described at the beginning of this story. Six hunters completely tagged out on that hunt, harvesting two bucks and two does apiece with Federal factory soft point loads and Venture Compact rifles chambered in .308 Win. or .243 Win. That's 24 deer, plus a trophy free-range aoudad and a trophy blackbuck, taken over several days at distances of up to 250 yards with 100% positive performance from the Venture Compact rifles.

Every rifle should be this good.

**GW**

## CONTACT

### **Barnes Bullets**

**435-856-1000**

[BarnesBullets.com](http://BarnesBullets.com)

### **Burris Optics**

**970-356-1670**

[BurrisOptics.com](http://BurrisOptics.com)

### **Competitive Edge Dynamics**

**888-628-3233**

[CEDhk.com](http://CEDhk.com)

### **Double T Outfitters**

**210-413-1597**

[DoubletHunting.com](http://DoubletHunting.com)

### **Federal Premium Ammunition**

**800-379-1732**

[FederalPremium.com](http://FederalPremium.com)

### **Hornady Manufacturing Company**

**800-338-3220**

[Hornady.com](http://Hornady.com)

### **Nagel's Gun Shop**

**210-342-5420**

[NagelsGuns.net](http://NagelsGuns.net)

### **Smith & Wesson**

**800-331-0852**

[Smith-Wesson.com](http://Smith-Wesson.com)

### **Talley Manufacturing**

**803-854-5700**

[TalleyManufacturing.com](http://TalleyManufacturing.com)

### **Thompson Center Arms**

**866-730-1614**

[TCArms.com](http://TCArms.com)

### **Weaver Optics**

**800-379-1732**

[WeaverOptics.com](http://WeaverOptics.com)

### **Winchester Ammunition**

[Winchester.com](http://Winchester.com)



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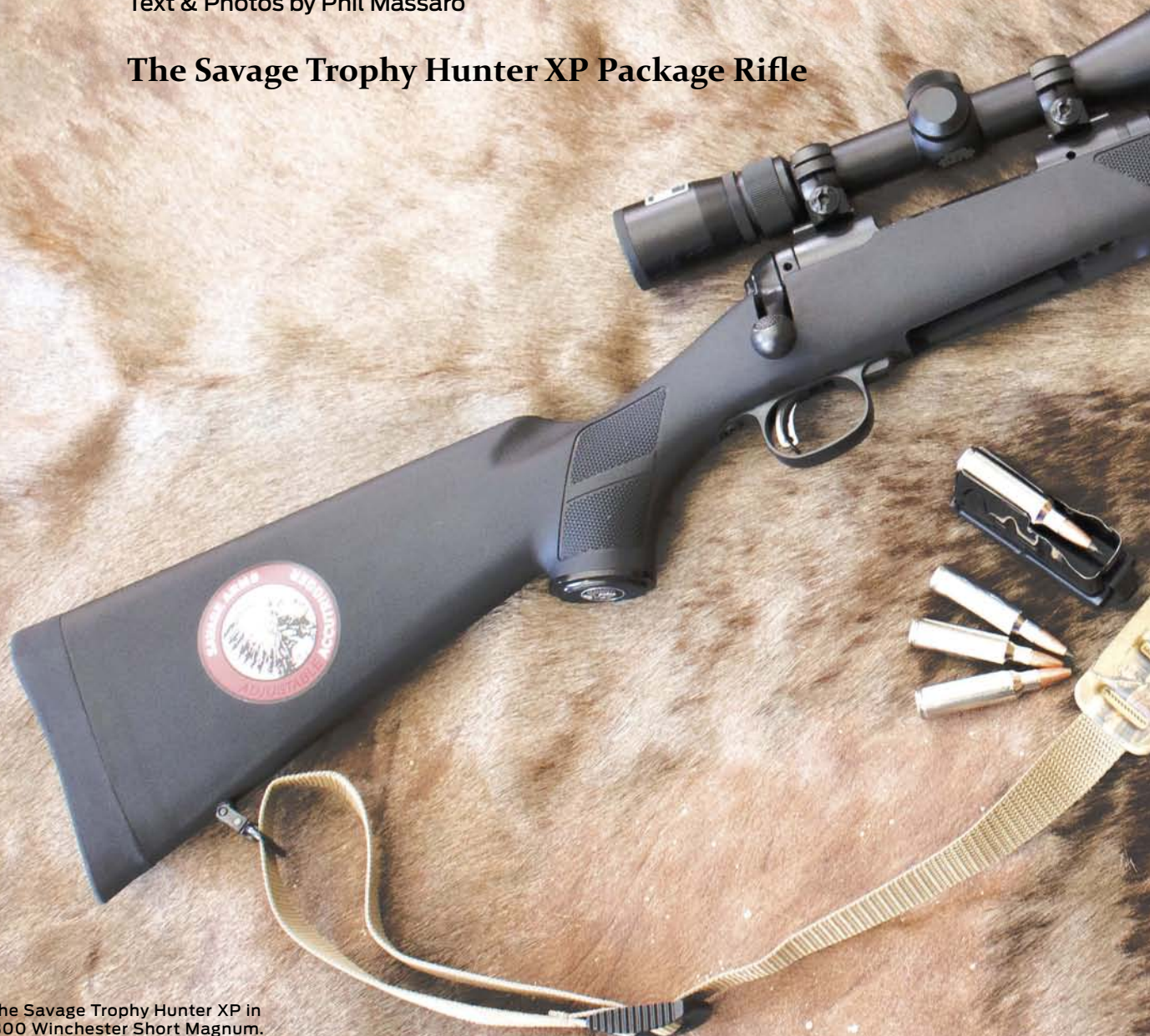




# Sweet **SAVAGE**

Text & Photos by Phil Massaro

**The Savage Trophy Hunter XP Package Rifle**



The Savage Trophy Hunter XP in  
.300 Winchester Short Magnum.





**P**eeking over the eastern horizon, the sun's rays slowly pushed away the darkness, saturating the scene with the undeniable hope of the first day of deer season. I was sitting in a tower blind in northern Minnesota, staring back east toward my native New York, looking over a 40-acre cut field interspersed with light brush.

The ambient temperature was a tolerable 12 degrees, with a seasonal 30-mph breeze, eliminating the threat of mosquito bites this morning. With my vantage point being 10 feet in the air, and knowing my shots might exceed 400 yards, I was glad to have a .300 Magnum in hand.

The occasion was my participation in the annual Minnesota Governor's Deer Hunting Opener, and I found myself in the camp of Ron Otterstad, who was kind enough to provide a hunting spot and share the hospitality of his camp. "We have some long shooting on the east side of the farm," Otterstad told me, "so you'll want to bring something that can reach out and touch 'em."





The tang-mounted, three-position safety is naturally positioned under the shooter's thumb.

## ■ PACKAGE OF CHOICE

I chose a sensible combination: the Savage Trophy Hunter XP. The package is set up by the good folks at Savage and features their Model 11 rifle, a Nikon BDC 3-9x40mm scope and a black synthetic stock. The fact that it was chambered for the .300 Winchester Short Magnum made me feel even better that morning, with the stiff wind and long shots.

I usually shy away from package deals, as some of the early offerings had less-than-desirable glass, or features that I didn't want or enjoy. However, this was not the case with the Savage Trophy Hunter XP.

There is no question that the value-priced Savage rifles are fan-

tastic shooters; I firmly believe that Savage makes one of the best barrels—if not THE best barrel—on the market today. Their bolt system, with its floating bolt face, virtually eliminates any headspace issues,

and dramatically increases accuracy with a wide variety of ammunition. Those features are pretty well standard to the Savage line.

The Nikon 3-9x40 has an equally solid reputation, giving a very clear image at different magnification ranges, and the BDC reticle is an added bonus in this package. The BDC system is a very user-friendly method that makes distant shots easier by offering a series of small circles on the lower vertical crosshair, each calibrated to hit at certain distances. The Nikon website allows you to input your chosen ammunition so you will know the distances at which the circles will hit your target, and it's easy enough to interpolate the in-between shots.

## ■ .300 WSM

If you're looking to buy a package gun, I'd be willing to bet you're looking for a fairly universal cartridge. Many choices will suffice, but I am a fan of the .30 caliber magnum cartridges as an all-around choice.

The .300 Winchester Short Magnum (.300 WSM) has proven itself for over a decade, and I feel it's here to stay, unlike some of the



▲ The Savage free floating bolt head is a genius design, solving most headspace issues and better aligning ammunition in the chamber.



newer short magnum offerings. It offers ballistics similar to the .300 Holland & Holland and the .300 Winchester Magnums, but in a short action rifle.

The .300 WSM is a stubby little affair, but it will deliver fine accuracy with the proper load. While there are many good 150-grain loads on the market, I prefer 165- and 180-grain bullets because they hold together better and have been shown to be very accurate. The 165s are usually driven to just over 3,100 fps, while most 180-grain loads travel at around 2,950 fps. This translates to a rather flat shooting cartridge with plenty of throw weight for deer, hogs, moose and bears.

Good .308-inch diameter bullets in these two weights are hard

to argue with for most North American hunting situations. There are plenty of different bullets, with varying constructions, available within 165 and 180 grains, from standard cup-and-core bullets like the Winchester Power Point, to the seriously strong Nosler Partition, Federal Trophy Bonded Tipped and Hornady GMX.

It's rather easy for a hunter to tailor the bullet choice to the game because .30-calibers are among the most popular bore diameters, and the 165- and 180-grain bullets are among the most popular .30s.

#### ■ FURNITURE, PAD

The Savage rifle comes with a black, lightweight synthetic stock, well proportioned and well fitted to the metal. I have a hard time saying

"plastic-to-metal fit", but the barrel is free floated, and the molded checkering, designed in a series of small panels, affords a good grip on the rifle.

At first, the length of pull felt a bit on the long side, but I soon realized that it was just the pliable rubber recoil pad rubbing on my clothes. That recoil pad deserves a mention, as the rifle/scope package weighs in at 7.5 pounds; my initial reaction was "this rifle is going to hurt." Not the case at all. The recoil pad absorbed so much of the magnum's kick that this lightweight package was a pleasure to shoot, even from the bench.

The pad is a bit "grabby" when shouldering the rifle, but I'll take that over a rifle that pounds hell out of you.

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CLIP WE WERE ISSUED IN  
AFGHANISTAN IN ABOUT  
EVERY WAY!  
GOOD LUBRICANT"**  
- C. JOHNSON, RETIRED U.S. ARMY



The Nikon 3-9x40 BDC rifle scope comes boresighted and is included as part of the package.

## ⦿ SPECIFICATIONS

### SAVAGE TROPHY HUNTER XP PACKAGE RIFLE

**Action:** Bolt action

**Caliber:** .300 Winchester Short Magnum

**Stock:** Synthetic

**Finish:** Matte black barrel, black stock

**Barrel:** 24-inch carbon steel, 1:10-inch right-hand twist

**Sights:** Nikon 3-9x40BDC, factory bore-sighted

**Magazine Capacity:** Two rounds, detachable

**Overall Length:** 43.5 inches

**Weight (empty):** 7.5 pounds

**MSRP:** \$629.00

“I usually shy away from package deals... However, this was not the case with the Savage Trophy Hunter XP.”

#### ■ ACCUTRIGGER

The Trophy Hunter XP comes with the AccuTrigger, and I'm a huge fan of the Savage design. The trigger itself is set to break cleanly at less than 2.5 pounds, but there is no risk of accidental discharge from dropping or jarring the rifle.

The small silver blade in the center of the trigger acts as a sear block, and the rifle cannot fire unless that blade is depressed before the trigger is pulled. This results in a safe, crisp trigger pull that allows the shooter to put his or her shots where they belong without squeezing the trigger for the better part of a week, all the while trying not to

pass out from oxygen deprivation.

Features like this are rarely offered in a package rifle, and it's nice to shoot a rifle that has a good trigger right out of the box.

#### ■ SAFETY FIRST

The Trophy Hunter XP package also comes with one of my favorite styles of safety: a thumb safety located on top of the tang, just behind the bolt. Although I've become accustomed to the lever style safety on Remington 700s and the wing style safety on the Winchester Model 70 and its clones, a tang safety easily operated by the trigger hand thumb is one of the most natural feeling safeties ever designed.

The Savage design is a three-position affair, with the forward position for firing, the middle position for operating the bolt and unloading the rifle without fear of discharge, and the rear position for blocking both bolt and trigger.



We stop at nothing to build the world's finest tactical gear. BLACKHAWK!® was started in 1990 by a Navy SEAL whose pack failed in a minefield and nearly cost him his life. He vowed to build equipment the right way. We are honoring that vow with every piece of gear that bears our name. For you. For our way of life.

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## SERPA® LEVEL 2 TACTICAL HOLSTER

Configures to any mission and features a fast, intuitive ultra-secure Auto Lock™ that also reinforces proper weapon grip.

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The Savage AccuTrigger breaks at just about three pounds, helping the shooter place his or her shots accurately.

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

### SAVAGE TROPHY HUNTER XP IN .300 WINCHESTER SHORT MAGNUM

LOAD NAME	AVG. MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	AVG. 3-SHOT 100 YD. GROUP (INCHES)	BEST 100 YD. GROUP (INCHES)
Federal Premium 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip	3,215	1.15	0.90
Federal Vital Shok 165-grain Trophy Copper	3,130	0.85	0.65
Fusion 180-grain	2,930	1.25	0.90
Massaro Ballistic Laboratories 180-grain Nosler Partition (handloaded)	2,875	0.95	0.75

*Velocities measured with Oehler Model 35P chronograph, 5 yards from muzzle*



## ■ LOW-CAP

The .300 WSM chambering does come with one disadvantage: the efficient, short and stubby design compromises magazine capacity. It's reduced to the point that the Trophy Hunter XP detachable magazine only holds two rounds, although the shooter can stuff one up the pipe prior to inserting the magazine.

Three shots should be plenty for most hunting situations, and I didn't really find it to be a problem, but I thought you might like to know that up front. The magazine itself is a polymer outer layer with a steel insert, and is secured with a flexible tab at the muzzle end of the magazine well. Loading the magazine posed no problems, even with frozen fingers in Minnesota, and there were no feed issues with the rifle whatsoever.

## ■ THE PROOF IS IN THE SHOOTING

The rifle shot like a dream right out of the box. The scope was factory-mounted, and was only two inches off the bullseye with the first three-shot group.

I used four different loads: Federal Premium in 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip, 165-grain Trophy Copper, and 180-grain Fusion, as well as my own handloads featuring the 180-grain Nosler Partition. All the loads gave more than acceptable hunting accuracy, with the Federal 165 Trophy Coppers and the hand-loaded Nosler Partitions being sub-MOA.

Velocities were within reason when compared to advertised values, with the handloads being about 100 fps slower than factory ammo, which is no surprise. Even

the stout 180-grain Fusion loads were no problem to shoot from the bench thanks to that sweet recoil pad.

The barrel that Savage provides is 24 inches and slightly heavier than sporting weight, which helped steady the rifle while preparing for a shot in the field. The muzzle is rounded, rather than a recessed target crown, but the test rifle's crown was just fine, as indicated by the gun's superb accuracy.

## ■ SMART SCOPE

As previously mentioned, the Nikon website offers a program called 'Spot On' that will plug the chosen factory ammunition, at advertised velocities, into a ballistics calculator, and report to you the various distances which the circles on the reticle will hit. This allows the shooter to either print or copy a drop chart and use the reticle in conjunction with a rangefinder.

Plugging in the 180-grain Federal Fusion load at a velocity of 2,950 fps and a B.C. of 0.495 will work with the BDC reticle in this manner, according to the program. The main crosshair should be used to zero the rifle at 75 yards, which should give you a center hold out to about 125 yards.

The center of the first circle below the crosshair will place your bullet dead on at 216 yards, while the second circle down will impact at exactly 322 yards, the third at 422 yards and the fourth at 542 yards. The top of the lower vertical crosshair will give a zero at 655 yards, but that's 250 yards past my comfortable shooting distance.

The program also presents a more complex breakdown, offering the yardage for the top and bottom

of each circle to further extract the reticle's accuracy potential. Again, this will work best with the aid of a good rangefinder that gives you the exact distance to the target.

## ■ CLOSING STATEMENTS

Overall, I find the Savage Trophy Hunter XP to be an outstanding value. With an MSRP of \$629, this rifle/scope package gives a hunter the opportunity to purchase a firearm that is accurate, dependable, and fully functional without breaking the bank.

And the deer? They missed our meeting, and decided to spend their time at a location that wasn't within view of the Trophy Hunter XP. Better luck next time. **GW**

## CONTACT

**Savage Arms**  
(413) 642-4262  
[SavageArms.com](http://SavageArms.com)

**Nikon Optics**  
(800) 645-6687  
[NikonSportOptics.com](http://NikonSportOptics.com)

**Federal Premium Ammunition**  
(800) 379-1732  
[FederalPremium.com](http://FederalPremium.com)

**Massaro Ballistic Laboratories**  
(518) 588-8070  
[MBLAmmo.com](http://MBLAmmo.com)

**Nosler Bullets**  
(800) 285-3701  
[Nosler.com](http://Nosler.com)

# JANTZ - USA AT K

## JANTZ USA MADE BLADES

**Jantz** Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.  
Each of these hollow ground blades are designed by our team and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

### Oyster Blade



The back is flat.

Designed with beauty and usability in mind, the rounded and ground tip is perfect for shucking oysters practically and safely. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 6 3/4", blade is 2 1/4" x 1.04" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J1008	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	29.95
J1089	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

### Pattern 35



Overall length 6 5/8", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J3528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J3558	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	39.95
J3589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	49.95

### Large Caper



Overall length 7 3/4", blade is 3" x 3/4" wide, 1/8" thick. Handle Holes 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8258	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	34.95
J8289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	59.95

### Small Caper



Overall length 5 1/8", blade is 2" x 1/2" wide, .100" thick. Handle Holes 1/8".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J8158	CPM 154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	29.95
J8189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	29.95

**Jantz** Blades are the highest quality pre-shaped blades available anywhere.

The two blades below are only a portion of our flat ground **Jantz** Blades. Designed and crafted 100% on site at our facility.

### Pattern 31



Pattern 31 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 5/8", Blade Length 3", width 1 1/8", thickness 5/32". Bolster holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J3127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	31.95
J3147	154CM	Peened	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	35.95
J3198	1095	Satin	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J319K	1095	Black	Cryo	57-58	24.95
J3189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	79.95

### Pattern 65



Overall length 8 7/16", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Handle Holes 3/16", Thong Hole 3/16".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6508	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J6528	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J6589	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 51



Similar to our Pattern 31 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 7 5/8", blade is 3" x 1 1/8" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	34.95
J5128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	34.95
J5148	154CM	Satin	Cryo	58-59	39.95
J5178	CPMS 90V	Satin	Cryo	56-59	99.95
J5189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 52



Similar to our Pattern 22 with a full hollow grind. Cryogenically treated and razor sharp. Overall length 8 3/8", blade is 3 1/2" x 1 3/32" wide, 5/32" thick. Bolster Holes 1/8", Handle Holes 1/4", Thong Hole 1/4". See page online for accessories.

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J5208	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	39.95
J5228	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	39.95
J5289	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	99.95

### Pattern 61



Pattern 61 is flat ground and has optimal edge holding capability. Overall length 7 3/4", Blade Length 3 1/4", width 1 1/4", thickness 9/64" (.140"). Bolster holes 3/32", Handle Holes 3/32" and 3/16", Thong Hole 1/4".

CAT.#	STEEL	FINISH	TEMPER	HRC	PRICE
J6127	D2	Peened	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6128	D2	Satin	Cryo	59-61	32.95
J6107	440C	Peened	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6108	440C	Satin	Cryo	57-58	32.95
J6157	CPM154	Peened	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6158	CPM154	Satin	Cryo	59-60	44.95
J6189	Damascus	Etched	Cryo	58-60	89.95

## Kirinite HANDLE MATERIAL

1 1/2" X 10" Scales below.

### Glow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1815	1/8"	10.95
KI1315	3/16"	15.95
KI1415	1/4"	19.95

### Desert Camo



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1802	1/8"	8.95
KI1302	3/16"	9.95
KI1402	1/4"	14.95

### Lava Flow



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1804	1/8"	8.95
KI1304	3/16"	9.95
KI1404	1/4"	14.95

### Red Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1808	1/8"	8.95
KI1308	3/16"	10.95
KI1408	1/4"	13.95

### Green Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1810	1/8"	8.95
KI1310	3/16"	10.95
KI1410	1/4"	13.95



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## BLADE STEEL

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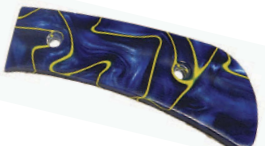
CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1801	1/8"	8.95
KI1301	3/16"	9.95
KI1401	1/4"	14.95

### Toxic Green



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1803	1/8"	8.95
KI1303	3/16"	9.95
KI1403	1/4"	14.95

### Royal Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1807	1/8"	8.95
KI1307	3/16"	9.95
KI1407	1/4"	14.95

### Black Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1806	1/8"	8.95
KI1306	3/16"	10.95
KI1406	1/4"	13.95

### Blue Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	PRICE
KI1809	1/8"	8.95
KI1309	3/16"	10.95
KI1409	1/4"	13.95

All steel offered below by **JANTZ** is made in the USA. Visit [www.knifemaking.com](http://www.knifemaking.com) to purchase other widths and thicknesses.

### CPM® S110V® Stainless Steel

CPM S110V is a high alloy martensitic stainless tool steel. Offers better corrosion resistance than 440C or CPM S90V. Aim hardness is 58/61. **Typical chemistry C 2.8, Nb 3.0, Cr 15.25, V 9.00, Mo 2.25, Co 2.5.**

#### 18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF118	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 65.95
QF658	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 98.95
QF718	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 86.95
QF728	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$113.95

#### 36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
QF136	1/8"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$129.95
QF656	5/32"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$195.95
QF716	3/16"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$171.95
QF726	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$225.95

### CPM® 20-CV Tool Steel

CPM 20CV is a martensitic stainless steel with exceptionally good wear resistance and outstanding corrosion resistance. Aim for hardness is 58-59Rc. CPM 20CV is a registered trademark of Crucible Industries LLC.

**Typical chemistry: C 1.9, Cr 20.0, V 4.0, Mo 1.0, W 6.**

#### 18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF218 - \$ 36.95	TU218 - \$ 42.95	TG218 - \$ 48.95
1/8"	2"	TF228 - \$ 44.95	TU228 - \$ 52.95	TG228 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF318 - \$ 48.95	TU318 - \$ 54.95	TG318 - \$ 60.95
5/32"	2"	TF328 - \$ 65.95	TU328 - \$ 73.95	TG328 - \$ 81.95

#### 36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	TF216 - \$ 72.95	TU216 - \$ 84.95	TG216 - \$ 96.95
1/8"	2"	TF226 - \$ 93.95	TU226 - \$109.95	TG226 - \$125.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	TF316 - \$ 90.95	TU316 - \$102.95	TG316 - \$114.95
5/32"	2"	TF326 - \$123.95	TU326 - \$139.95	TG326 - \$155.95

### CPM® REX M4 High Speed Steel

CPM REX M4 HC(HS) is a special purpose high speed steel exhibiting better wear resistance and toughness. Also providing enhanced machinability and grindability. Aim hardness is 63/65. **Typical chemistry: C 1.42, Mn .30, S .06, Cr 4.00, V 4.0, Mo 5.25, W 5.5.**

#### 18" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF428	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF518	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 52.95
JF528	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$ 70.95
JF548	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$134.95

#### 36" Steel

CAT#	THICK	WIDE	FINISH	PRICE
JF426	3/16"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF516	1/4"	1 1/2"	MILL FINISH	\$103.95
JF526	1/4"	2"	MILL FINISH	\$139.95
JF546	1/4"	4"	MILL FINISH	\$268.95

### CPM® D2 Carbon Steel

CPM D2 is an air-hardening, high carbon, high chromium tool steel, heat treatable to HRC 60-62. It offers excellent abrasion resistance. Machinable in the annealed condition and exhibits minimal distortion on hardening. **Typical chemistry: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.**

#### 18" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 - \$ 26.95	ZU218 - \$ 32.95	ZG218 - \$ 38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 - \$ 34.95	ZU228 - \$ 42.95	ZG228 - \$ 50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 - \$ 28.95	ZU318 - \$ 34.95	ZG318 - \$ 40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 - \$ 39.95	ZU328 - \$ 47.95	ZG328 - \$ 55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 - \$ 35.95	ZU418 - \$ 41.95	ZG418 - \$ 47.95
3/16"	2"	ZF428 - \$ 45.95	ZU428 - \$ 53.95	ZG428 - \$ 61.95

#### 36" Steel

THICK	WIDE	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF216 - \$ 51.95	ZU216 - \$ 63.95	ZG216 - \$ 75.95
1/8"	2"	ZF226 - \$ 65.95	ZU226 - \$ 81.95	ZG226 - \$ 97.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF316 - \$ 55.95	ZU316 - \$ 67.95	ZG316 - \$ 79.95
5/32"	2"	ZF326 - \$ 75.95	ZU326 - \$ 91.95	ZG326 - \$107.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF416 - \$ 66.95	ZU416 - \$ 78.95	ZG416 - \$ 90.95
3/16"	2"	ZF426 - \$ 86.95	ZU426 - \$102.95	ZG426 - \$118.95

## FOLDER ACCESSORIES

# GTC

Bearings



GTC 440C stainless steel thrust ball bearings caged in stainless steel retainers developed by **Gustavo T. Cecchini's GTC Knives** to reduce friction and failures, increase opening time, and easier cleaning. The 100% stainless steel construction eliminates the problems of other thrust bearings that are not 100% stainless. Sold separately.

CAT.#	O.D.	I.D.	BALL DIA.	PRICE
GC101	.354"	.157"	.062"	1.29
GC106	.358"	.192"	.062"	1.29
GC111	.378"	.218"	.062"	1.29
GC121	.415"	.255"	.062"	1.29
GC102	.454"	.258"	.078"	1.29

### Decorative Torx Screws for Pivot Pins

Designed and manufactured by **JANTZ** in our facility. Use with our threaded pivot barrels. 303 Stainless Torx head screw, .350" in length and threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	NAME	DIAMETER	TORX	PRICE
FF401	Spinner	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF402	Galaxy	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF403	Orchid	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF404	Turbine	1/4"	T6	2.49
FF271	Solar Flare	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF273	Gear	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF275	Bullseye	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF276	Cosmos	5/16"	T8	2.49
FF277	Texas Star	5/16"	T8	2.49

### Threaded Pivot Only



Pivot barrels are threaded 6-48.

CAT.#	O.D.	LENGTH	FITS	PRICE
F85B	3/16"	.350"	1/4"	1.95
F88B	3/16"	.500"	1/4"	1.95
F96B	1/4"	.350"	5/16"	1.95
F98B	1/4"	.500"	5/16"	1.95

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# JANTZ



# Variations on a *THEME*

Text & Photos by John N. Raguso

The Gunsite Scout Rifle Keeps Getting Better



Photo by RUGER

The Ruger Gunsite Scout rifle has continued to evolve following its introduction in 2010.





**T**he scout rifle concept was the brainchild of retired U.S. Army Col. Jeff Cooper, who, in an article on the subject back in 1984, called for a lightweight, hard-hitting, multi-function rifle chambered in .308 Win.

For survival in the world Cooper envisioned, his ultimate rifle would have the optics mounted forward of the receiver, giving the operator a wide field of view for fast and effective engagement of multiple targets.



▲ Here's a view of the GSR's starboard side, showing the 3-position safety, the magazine release lever forward of the trigger guard, the standard Accurate Mag steel 10-round magazine, and outfitted with a Nikon Monarch 4-16x42mm BDC reticle scope. Ruger includes the standard offset stainless steel scope mounts/rings that clamp into receiver recesses, but accommodating this classic layout requires removal of the rear sight and front Picatinny rail.

## ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION

According to Ruger, the Gunsite Scout Rifle was developed in conjunction with Gunsite instructor Ed Head, and is a branch of Ruger's M77 family tree of bolt-action rifles. While the Scout has some M77 features such as controlled round feed and integral scope mounts, the 10-round detachable box magazine, iron sights and forward Picatinny rail are obvious clues that this Scout follows its own unique path.

First introduced in 2010, the original Gunsite Scout Rifles were manufactured from blued alloy steel with 16.1-inch barrels in both right and left-hand configurations. Chambered for .308 Win., these



This portside profile of the GSR shows the flash suppressor, removable stock spacers to adjust the length of pull, aggressive checkering in the forend and grip, plus Nikon's 4-16x42mm Monarch scope.





▲ The GSR's laminate stock features a very aggressive checkering in the grip area for excellent controllability either with gloves or bare-handed in a variety of weather conditions.

handy carbines also had the ability to digest affordable milspec 7.62 NATO ammo.

Second-generation Scouts debuted in 2013, reengineered with a matte finish stainless steel receiver, bolt and an 18.7-inch cold hammer-forged barrel to optimize the .308

Winchester's potential while reducing muzzle flash and recoil.

Ruger has recently expanded the Gunsite Scout Rifle family tree for 2015 to include a half-dozen new siblings, with four of them chambered in 5.56 NATO. Equipped with 5.56-friendly 16.1-inch barrels,

this quartet is available in both right-hand and left-hand, with alloy steel or stainless steel barrels/receivers and composite wood stocks.

The final two yearling Scouts are right-hand only and are chambered in .308 Win. They sport 16.1-inch hammer-forged barrels, are available in either blued alloy or stainless steel finishes, and both feature a new durable synthetic stock.

## ■ MY GENERATION ...

The second-generation Scouts that appeared in 2013 were equipped with longer 18.7-inch hammer-forged stainless steel barrels and birdcage flash suppressors, and they totally changed my mind about this unique and interesting platform. I've always been a big fan of stainless steel barrels and actions, so that was the first thing that caught my attention on the newer Scout Rifles.



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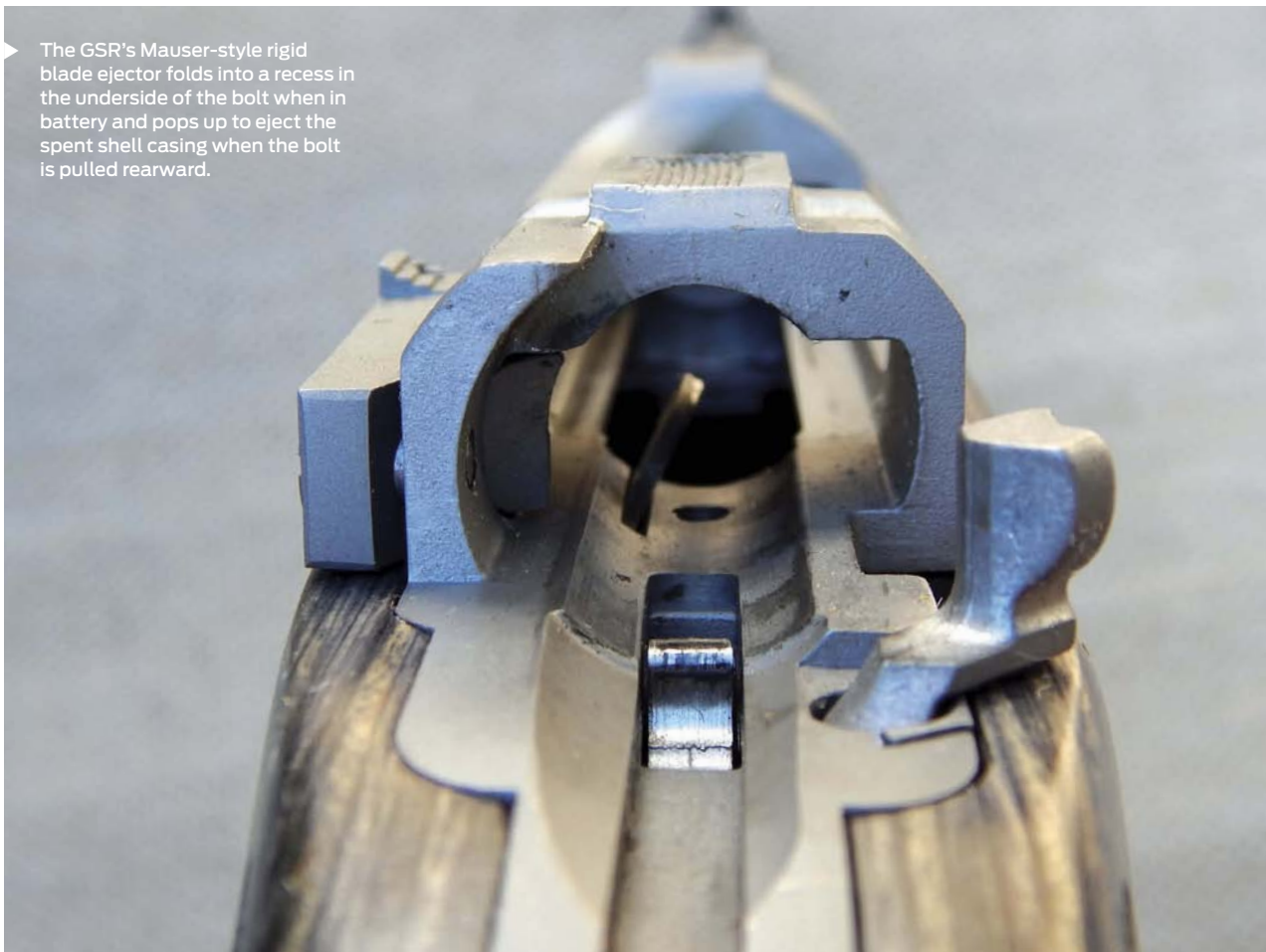


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▶ The GSR's Mauser-style rigid blade ejector folds into a recess in the underside of the bolt when in battery and pops up to eject the spent shell casing when the bolt is pulled rearward.



The second appeal was more artistic. When viewed from the port side with the righty bolt mechanism out of view and its 10-round staggered-stack Accurate Mag in place, this Scout looks similar to an M1A/M14, which is still one of the coolest-looking military rifles around. It's only upon closer inspection that you notice a Picatinny rail in front of the receiver, which is where the upper handguard would be on an M1A.

In profile, the Scout's stock shape, comb angle, mag release lever, magazine shape and size all bear an eerie resemblance to the venerable M1A. It was worth a closer look, so I arranged to get a product sample from Ruger to see what this iteration was like.



▲ The GSR features a removeable 6-panel flash suppressor that can be replaced with a standard threaded barrel cap to reduce the rifle's OAL.





▲ The GSR's laminate stock features removable half-inch stock spacers to adjust the length of pull to each operator, plus a very aggressive checkering in the grip area for excellent controllability.

## ■ DESIGN NOTES

The Gunsite Scout Rifle features a reliable bolt-action operation that uses the proven Mauser 98-type bolt with a single claw extractor, a receiver-mounted fixed-blade ejector, and a three-position

safety on the aft end of the bolt assembly.

The investment cast stainless steel receiver is attached to the multi-layer laminate wood stock via a forward-angled front screw that is secured to the receiver's integral recoil lug.

A steel 10-round detachable box magazine is standard, with other capacities and materials available. The fiberglass reinforced nylon magazine well and trigger guard are attached to the stock with a rear mounting screw and a perpendicular cross bolt.



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“In profile, the Scout’s stock shape...and size all bear an eerie resemblance to the venerable M1A.”

## ⊕ SPECIFICATIONS

### RUGER GUNSITE SCOUT RIFLE

**Model:** 6822

**Caliber:** .308 Win.

**Weight:** 7.3 pounds

**Overall Length:** 39.5 inches to 41.0 inches

**Barrel & Receiver Material:** Matte finish stainless steel

**Bolt:** Stainless steel, with Mauser type extractor

**Barrel Length:** 18.7-inches, cold hammer forged

**Barrel Twist Rate:** 1:10-inch R/H

**Grooves:** 6

**Front Sight:** Post with protective ears

**Rear Sight:** 3/32-inch ghost ring aperture, adjustable for windage & elevation

**Magazine:** Steel 10-round detachable box

**Stock Material:** Black laminate wood, with checkered forearm and pistol grip

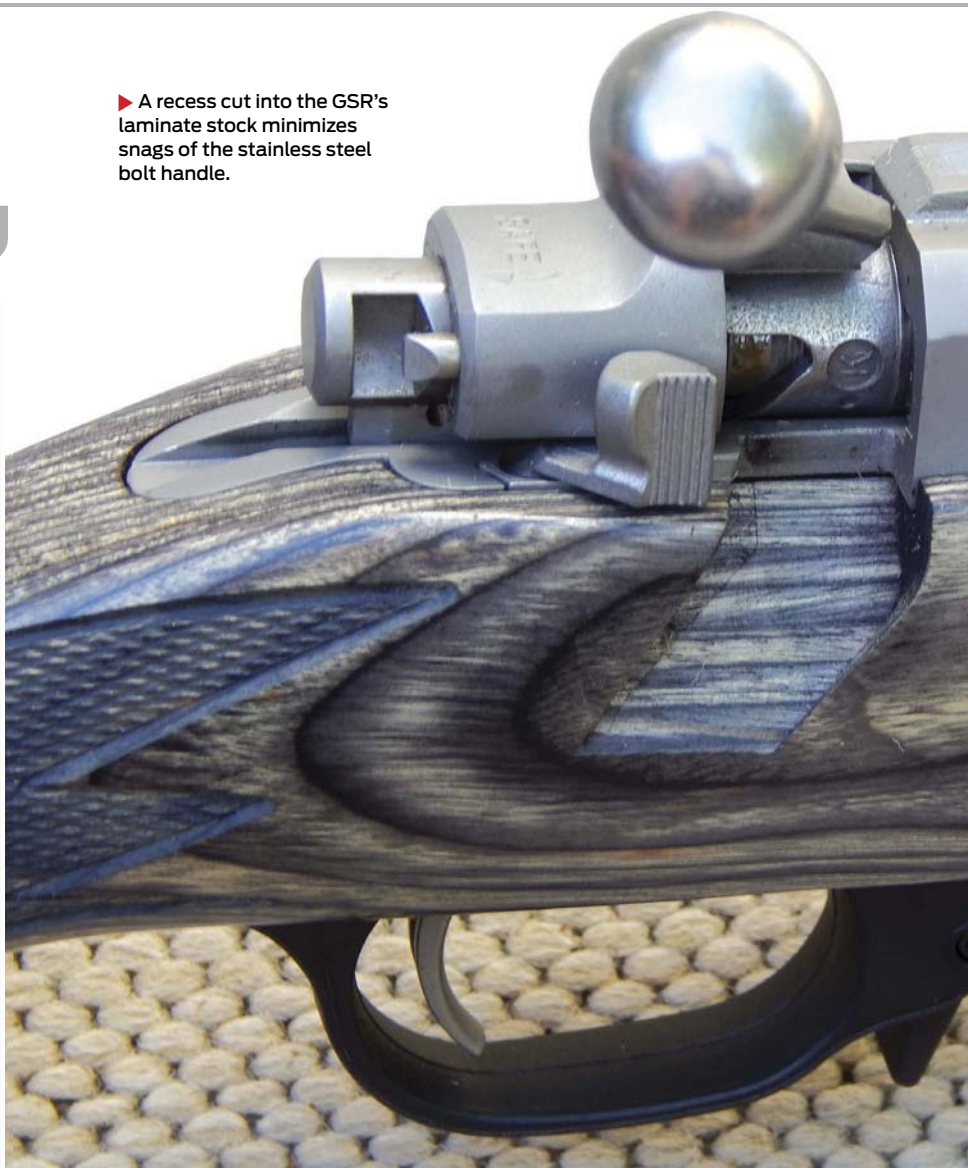
**Length of Pull:** 12.75 inches to 14.25 inches

**Flash Suppressor:** Birdcage

**Safety Selector:** 3-position

**MSRP:** \$1,139

► A recess cut into the GSR’s laminate stock minimizes snags of the stainless steel bolt handle.



The Gunsite Scout Rifle can be tailored to each shooter’s individual profile using a trio of removable 0.5-inch plastic recoil pad spacers that vary the length of pull from 12.75 inches to 14.25 inches.

The LC6 trigger on the GSR is a second-gen design that differs from the M77 Mark II rifles and features a clean, crisp break with no creep and “surprised” me every time I squeezed it off. My only complaints about the GSR’s trigger are that it was non-adjustable and had a bit of a heavy touch, breaking between 5.5 pounds and 5.8 pounds

## ■ LINES OF SIGHT

The Gunsite Scout Rifle comes equipped with standard iron sights that borrow the adjustable windage/elevation rear peep sight from the Ruger Mini-14, which is installed just forward of the bolt handle on the receiver top via a single Allen screw. Rotating the 3/32-inch diameter aperture in half-turn increments will move the point of impact approximately 1.25 inches at 100 yards.

Although the protected front blade sight is similar to the Mini-14’s, it’s not the same; it protrudes about a quarter-inch above the pro-





▲ Here the 3-way safety is in the “locked bolt” position with the lever’s notch fitting into a recess in the striker and preventing the firing pin from moving forward.

protective steel ears to enable accurate sighting, given its position on the receiver relative to the bore axis.

The sight radius between the front and back iron sights measures 22.5 inches, which makes the Scout an accurate shooter right out of the box, especially if you set your zero at 50 yards. This is the “magic” mark on many .308 Win and 7.62 NATO guns, giving excellent accuracy from the muzzle out to 200 yards with minimal ballistic rise or drop.

Other sighting options include reflex sights, ACOG-style optics and long eye relief scopes, any of which

easily mount on the Picatinny accessory rail.

If going with a traditional variable powered scope is your preference, Ruger has included with the GSR a pair of heavy-duty S/S rings that mount securely into beveled cuts positioned on either side of the receiver’s ejection port.

## ■ LET IT LOOSE

I had a challenging time trying to place 1-inch 5-shot groups at 100 yards. After burning through a significant amount of ammo, I eventually learned to wait at least 30 seconds between each trigger

squeeze and to use the match grade ammo that the gun liked best to ensure consistent groups. Once I learned the secrets, I was able to shoot a handful of 1-inch 5-shot groups at 100 yards with my Gun-site Scout Rifle, eyeballing the target through a Nikon 4-16x42mm Monarch scope equipped with a BDC reticle.

Mostly, the groups averaged somewhere in the 1.25-inch to 1.5-inch range, which is not too shabby, all things considered.

The iron sights were totally deadly at 50 yards, and I was consistently able to produce 0.5-inch



▲ The author sends rounds downrange with the GSR using a Trijicon 3.5x35mm TA11E ACOG with BDC set on the forward rail. Whether using a fixed power ACOG or a variable power long eye relief scope, this sighting position is most consistent with Col. Jeff Cooper's idea of having a full field of view when sighting in a target.

to 0.75-inch groups at this distance.

My favorite “quick-strike” sight setup employed a Trijicon RX-34 reflex with 4.5-MOA dot that snapped on and off the Picatinny rail with the simplicity of a single throw lever, and was most consistent with Col. Cooper's scout rifle doctrine of “both eyes open” shooting.

The best groups were achieved using 168-grain BTHP match ammo by Hornady, Federal and Winchester. Hornady's 155-grain OTM ammo, in both the brass case and the lower-powered steel case varieties, also impressed with spot-on accuracy through the 18.7-inch barrel.

Away from the bench, when shooting from positions that included offhand, sitting, prone and supported by a stationary object, I

was able to appreciate the gun's moderate weight and aggressively checkered forearm and aft grip.

One potentially cranky habit of my Gunsite Scout Rifle was the bolt's tendency to get “stuck” when the bolt handle was angled just a bit during rapid-fire stress drills. Unlike other push-bolt systems that feature a lug and raceway in the receiver on opposite sides of the bolt, due to the Mauser style extractor setup, the GSR's bolt only has a lug on one side (180-degrees opposite the bolt handle), so be advised.

## ■ WELL?

If you're looking for a robust, reliable shooter that's easy to carry in the field, is adjustable to each operator's body shape, offers multiple sighting systems, carries one-shot .308 Win. stopping power and re-

quires minimal maintenance with its stainless steel finish, this one might be your perfect go-to rifle.

**GW**

## CONTACT

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# Low Tech, *HIGH TOUCH*

Text & Photos by James E. House

## Metallic Sights Hold a Steady Position in an “Optics Optional” World

**T**he sights saga began when someone realized that to make a projectile go to the desired point there must be some way to align the barrel with the target. The first sights consisted of a notch in a blade on top of the barrel near the rear and a raised lump or post near the muzzle. Thus was born a crude type of sighting device known as the open sight.

For generations, a receiver sight has been the choice of many shooters who use a lever action rifle.







▲ Williams produces a receiver sight for the Ruger 10/22, the base of which matches the contour of the receiver



▲ This Williams Foolproof has target knobs. The light colored screws are lock screws for the windage and elevation adjustments

The first BB gun I had was equipped with a V-notch in a blade welded to the rear of the barrel and a piece of folded sheet metal similarly attached near the muzzle; the arrangement worked well, as I recall.

The first firearm that I used extensively was a Winchester Model 90 pump chambered for the .22 Short. Its octagon barrel has a bead front sight and a blade rear that could be elevated by means of a screw projecting through the support, pushing against the barrel.

Today, with the exception of inexpensive rimfires or big game guns, most rifles have no built-in sights. That's because rifle shooters

now use optical sights to such an extent that manufacturers omit open sights since they know a scope will probably be installed.

### ■ I LIKE SIGHTS

I must confess that the majority of my rifles, even those of recent production, are models that have sights. I like the way they look, and sometimes I want to carry and use a rifle that does not have a scope attached. Today's scopes are superb and I love them, but not all the time.

Part of my love for metallic sights is that they add hardly any weight or bulk to a rifle. A large scope with a sturdy mount can eas-

ily add a pound or more to the weight of a rifle and make it top heavy. As a result, I find that I have to grip the rifle differently to carry it, and even when shooting from a bench the rifle has a tendency to tip because of the weighty optic on top.

There are situations in which open sights are desirable. Someone I know was in a tree stand with a rifle outfitted with a 3-9X scope set on 9X. Suddenly, a buck appeared less than 10 yards away and it was impossible to tell what part of the animal was in the crosshairs. In that fleeting moment, there was no time to adjust the magnification and then locate the deer. The result was



a missed chance at a very fine buck.

Under those conditions, the hunter would have been well served with open sights. Today, rifles that may be used on dangerous game at short ranges are still furnished with open sights, as they should be, but metallic sights also work well for other types of hunting at short ranges.

## ■ APERTURE SIGHT

A versatile and accurate type of metallic sight is the aperture or peep sight, which is usually mounted on the receiver so it'll be close to the shooter's eye. The strategy is to look through the aperture at the front sight, which is then placed on the target. Because the human eye tends to locate the

brightest spot to look through — in this case, the center of the aperture — this type of sight can be aligned very accurately on the target. In fact, this is the type of sight utilized in high-level match shooting, and the Winchester Model 52 target rifle I used many years ago was so equipped.

The aperture is mounted in such a way that adjustment screws can be rotated to move the aperture to compensate for windage and elevation. It should be mentioned that military arms such as the M1 and the M1 Carbine were equipped with aperture sights. Good aperture sights are precision instruments and consequently they are not cheap.

When a receiver sight is used

for shooting paper targets, the most common practice is to adjust the sight to give a six o'clock hold on the bull. A square-topped post or an aperture sight that circles the bull is normally used as a front sight.

With a post front sight, the rear sight is adjusted so that the top of the post is placed in the center of the aperture so it almost touches the bottom of the bull and the bullet strikes the center of the target. This gives a reproducible sight picture that permits accurate, reproducible shooting.

When shooting at game, targets of different sizes, or irregularly shaped targets, a better plan is to adjust the rear sight so that the bullet strikes where the top of the front post or bead rests on the target. In



▲ Lyman 66 series sights have been produced for many years and mount on flat-sided receivers of Winchesters and Marlin's.



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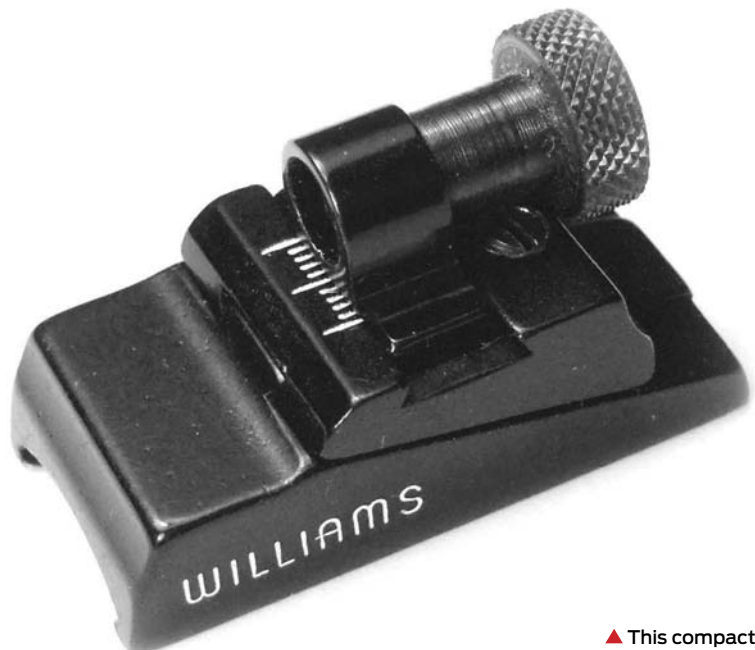


▲ This sight, which bears target knobs, is designed specifically for use on airguns.

that way, the shooter knows where the bullet will strike at that distance.

For hunting situations, the hunter should always adjust the rear sight so the point of impact is where the top of the post rests. That way, the shooter can simply center the top of the post in the aperture and align the top of the post where the bullet is to strike.

Because of the improved sight picture and the precise adjustments presented by peep sights, it is much easier to place bullets accurately than with open sights. In a discussion of metallic sights, the question of accuracy always arises. The best groups that I have obtained at 100 yards measure about 1.5 to 2 inches when using an aperture sight.



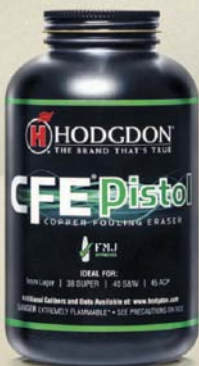
▲ This compact sight mounts on grooved receivers of rimfire rifles or airguns.



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▲ Globe sights have interchangeable inserts that allow the shooter to vary the sight picture.

## ■ OPEN OPTIONS

If a shooter wants open sights instead of aperture sights, the variety of configurations is extensive. A popular variable is the nature of the notch or groove in which the front sight is aligned. The most common type of notch has a “U” or “V” shape, but square notches are also used, especially when the front sight is a post with a square top.

Because many front sights have a round bead on top of a post, the “U”-shaped notch in the rear

sight allows the bead to be positioned more easily. The “V” shape does not mate well with either a square post or a round bead, and it tends to be darker in the bottom, making accurate placement of the front sight difficult.

Usually, the rear sight is held to the barrel by a dovetail notch. The sight can be tapped to move it laterally when adjusting for windage, and elevation is usually changed by means of a screw or a sliding blade with notches. Neither type of ad-

justment is very precise and sighting in is a trial and error process.

Knowing the distance to the target, how much the point of impact needs to be changed and the distance between the front and rear sights, it is possible to calculate how much the rear sight must be moved to make the point of aim and point of impact coincide. This is virtually never done with open sights because measuring exactly how much the rear sight is moved is not practical.



“Today’s scopes are superb and I love them, but not all the time.”



▲ Eagle International produced this Zephyr combination of receiver and front sight for the Ruger 10/22.

Another popular type of open sight is the folding leaf sight. It is held to the barrel by a dovetail notch, but the sight blade is hinged so it can be folded downward to make it lie nearly flat against the barrel. Windage adjustment most often requires movement of the entire sight, but elevation adjustments are made by loosening screws that hold a small sliding blade that can be moved vertically.

Another type of folding rear sight has multiple blades of varying heights so the rifle can be sighted in at different distances by simply choosing the appropriate blade.

As mentioned earlier, front sights are relatively simple in most cases, with the bead or post being common. In order to make the bead more visible, the back face sometimes has a brass or copper insert (a “gold” bead). White inserts give

the “ivory” bead sight. These additions can make it easier to see the front sight clearly, especially in dim light. In recent years, fiber optic inserts have displaced the gold and ivory bead front sight inserts for superb visibility. On many rifles, the front sight has a hood to protect the post or bead.

In principle, using open sights is a simple process. The bead or post is positioned in the rear sight notch

“There are situations  
in which open sights  
are desirable.”



▲ This excellent combination  
of front and rear sights is  
produced by XS Sight Systems.

and the rifle is held so the front sight is aligned on the target. However, different shooters may position the front sight somewhat differently in the rear sight, which results in a variable sight picture. In addition, the human eye cannot be focused simultaneously on the front/rear sights and the target, which are at different distances from the eye. The result is that you should adjust the sights according to the sight picture you will use.

#### ■ TALLEY

I sometimes read of someone who obtained a 1.5-inch group at

100 yards using open sights. A couple years ago, I was shooting one of my open sighted .22 WMR rifles at 50 yards and obtained three-shot groups that measured about 0.60 inches, but I can not do that consistently. However, the accuracy obtainable with open sights is adequate for many types of shooting.

In many situations metallic sights are entirely adequate, and that is why I still prefer rifles with metallic sights. Maybe it's because I started shooting with open sights and have been using them for so long, but a rifle without sights seems indecently attired. **GW**

## CONTACT

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TODAY'S  
HUNTER

# Fave *Four*

Text & Photos by Thomas C. Tabor

Here Are Four Hunting Destinations to Put On Your To-Do List



Tom took this excellent trophy buffalo using his custom .500 Jeffery rifle shooting a 570-grain Barnes Triple-Shock X Bullet.





**W**hile some hunters seem satisfied confining their hunts to their own state of residency and focusing on the usual species like whitetail deer, I'm of the opinion that doing so is akin to always going to the same place on vacation, or opting to order the same thing off the dinner menu. I actually have several friends who do this and they seem happy as can be.

Sometimes mixing things up a bit can add a great deal of stimulus and challenge to a hunter's life. It has certainly done that for me over the years and the following are a few places I would rank among the best of the best.





▲ New Brunswick, Canada has some of the best black bear hunting found anywhere. Tom took this massive bruin with his Ruger #1 chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum using a 180-grain Nosler Partition Bullet.

## ■ AFRICAN SAFARI

A hunting safari to Africa frequently ranks very high on many hunters' bucket lists, and for good reason. Not only does such an adventure offer the thrilling chance to add exotic and beautiful game species to one's collection, it also allows the hunter and even their families the opportunity to experience Africa's drastically different cultures.

I've often said that no matter how many times I travel to Africa, every single day offers something new and exciting that adds to the memories of the hunt. That's the major reason Africa tops my personal list of hunting destinations.

When considering an African hunting safari, costs can vary dramatically based on in which country you choose and the game species you will be pursuing. Three coun-



▲ The wildebeest makes a fine and unique game trophy.



tries – South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe – consistently rank lowest in overall cost, but still manage to offer excellent hunting opportunities for a wide variety of game. On the other hand, if you choose to hunt in Tanzania, Botswana and various others, you should expect your costs to increase exponentially.

In addition to location, an equally important consideration to keep your costs down is the species you intend to hunt. For animals taken or wounded on safari, fees are generally assessed on the rareness of the animal in that geographical area and its desirability as a trophy.

For example, if you are looking to go after any of the African Big 5 (elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion or

leopard) you can expect those hunts to be very costly; however, species like impala, wildebeest, blesbok, springbok, warthog, duikers and steenbok often have more reasonable trophy fees.

Typically, African hunting safaris last one to three weeks, but even a weeklong safari provides the opportunity to return home with a number of great trophies. By carefully selecting both your safari's location and what game you will be hunting, you might be surprised at just how affordable an African safari can be.

#### ■ AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

Even though Australia pales in comparison to Africa when it comes to the sheer number of unique game species, in my opinion,

#### GROUP SAVINGS

A great way to save money on hunts is to involve your hunting buddies. Frequently, guides and outfitters will charge less per person when hunting in groups. That might make it necessary for two hunters to share a guide, but in many hunting environments that can work out very well and even add to the fun of the adventure.

hunting Down Under is every bit as exciting and challenging, especially pursuing the desirable Asian water buffalo.

The Asian water buffalo of Australia are found in the largest concentrations in the northern most reaches of the country. These animals were brought into the country centuries ago, and while most people don't consider them quite as dangerous to hunt as their African

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▲ Wallabies and kangaroos are a bonus when hunting in some areas of the South Pacific.

counterparts, you should never underestimate what one of these massive beasts is capable of doing to you.

Encountering a particularly nasty bull can have devastating consequences for the hunter who is unprepared or careless. Because of the huge size and toughness of these animals, I personally consider the .375 magnum to be the minimum caliber necessary for these brutes.

Other species scattered throughout the country can provide excellent hunting opportunities, either on their own or combined with a buffalo hunt. They include wild boar, donkeys, scrub bulls, wild cattle, camels and even wild horses called "brumbies".

In addition, dingoes, kangaroos, wallabies, foxes, hares, rabbits and other small game can sometimes be hunted in some areas under certain restrictions.

## ■ NEW BRUNSWICK BLACK BEAR

Black bears are plentiful throughout most of Canada, but one of my favorite bear hunting haunts is in New Brunswick. Lying just north of the state of Maine, this is the perfect habitat to find great black bear hunting at decent prices.

The majority of bears in this area are solid black, but they may have a spot or two of white somewhere on their chest or feet. The number of bears, the size of the animals and the shooting opportunities are all outstanding in New Brunswick.

Most hunting is done over bait and from tree stands, which may be permanently mounted. This style of hunting is a great choice for older and younger hunters. Possibly one of the best things about such an adventure is that some of the best hunting takes place during Spring, when there is little else to hunt.

“ A hunting safari to Africa frequently ranks very high on many hunters' bucket lists... ”

Hunting licenses and tags are allocated to guides and outfitters, who resell them to clients and other hunters in turn, making it fairly easy for the bear hunter coming in from the lower 48 to obtain the necessary permits.

I have found that the best spring-time hunting is in the evening hours. You make your way quietly into the blind mid-afternoon and walk out after dark.

Obviously, walking out in the dark means you should take along a flashlight, but you'll also need a soft rifle case to carry your unloaded rifle out of the woods after legal hunting hours. Be sure to check local regulations before departing for the hunt.



## PLAN EARLY

When traveling outside U.S. borders for hunting, it is extremely important to start planning early. You can expect the requirements will include some type of gun permit for bringing your own firearms into their country.

In some instances, obtaining the necessary approvals can become a laborious process, taking several months to complete. Your guide/outfitter or booking agent can frequently help you in this endeavor, but you will need to allot a significant amount of time for this. Sometimes you can skirt those requirements by using a firearm provided by the guide/outfitter, but there will likely be a charge associated with that service. It does make the entire process much easier and less burdensome, but personally, I get a great deal of satisfaction from using my own guns and ammunition.

Another important factor is to make sure your passport is up to date. It should have several blank pages and a minimum of 6-months remaining before it expires.

In some instances shots, vaccines and malaria medication may be required, or if not required may still be appropriate.

It is also imperative that you check with your airlines to make sure you comply with all their requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition. Each airline has its own restrictions, and you need to be thoroughly knowledgeable about their requirements and adhere to them precisely to avoid any problems along the way.

## ■ KIWI COUNTRY

Hunting in New Zealand has become very popular over the last couple of decades because the country has a diverse population of desirable game.

One of most popular is the red stag, but there are also Himalayan tahr, chamois, wild boar, kangaroo and even water buffalo in some areas.

Though the overall size of a red stag pales in comparison to our American elk, the number of antler points on the stag frequently exceeds those of its bigger bodied U.S. cousin. While many countries in South America, Europe and Asia support good populations of red stag, the ones found in New Zealand seem to sport the most impressive antlers.

Like most deer species, the prime time to hunt the red stag is during the rut, called the "roar" in New Zealand. This begins as early as February and can run into early June, during which time the bulls seek out the hinds (females) for breeding. The unique roars made during this time are frequently described as sounding like the

distinctive roars produced by African lions.

The weight of a trophy red stag bull can sometimes exceed 500 pounds, making it the fourth largest deer species in the world. But physical size isn't this animal's most impressive feature. That has to be its enormous antlers that bear a huge number of points, culminating in a crown on the very top that can be large enough to encircle a small melon in its clutches.

## ■ EXOTICALLY SPEAKING

Wherever you choose to hunt, do your homework. Not everything on the internet is true, so contact the foreign embassies of each country you consider visiting to get important details you won't find elsewhere.

United States Embassies in foreign countries can offer plenty of insights into the dos and don'ts of visiting these exotic destinations.

The last thing you want is to be reading old copies of Gun World in some third-world prison. **GW**

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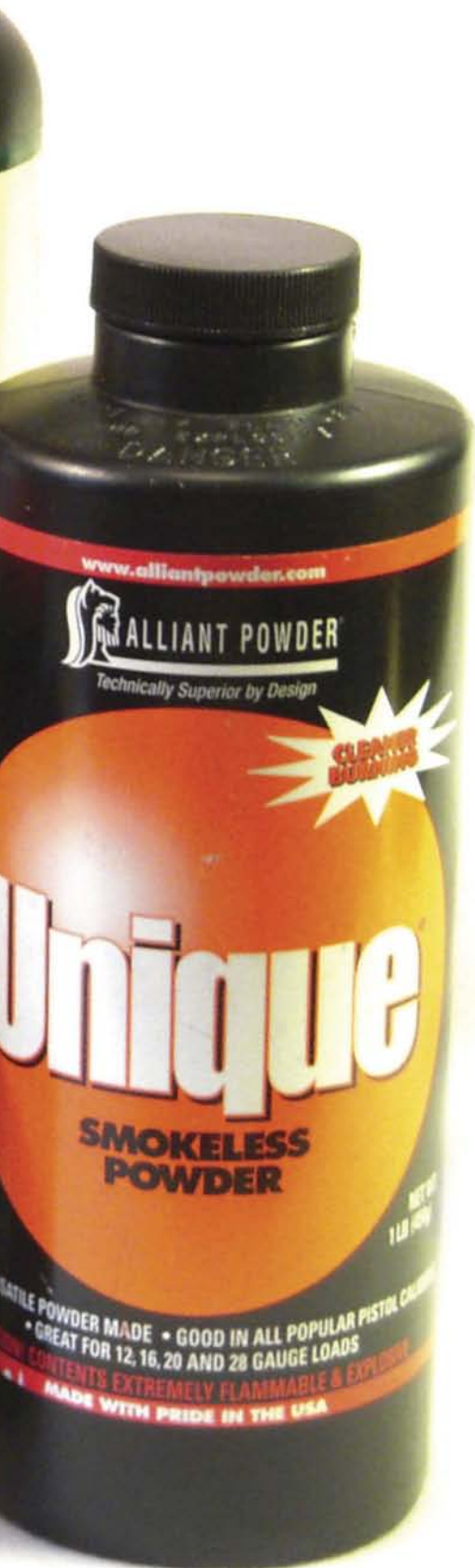
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# Duplicated *EFFORT*

Text & Photos by James E. House

## Increasing the Versatility of the .223 Remington

One of the definitions of versatility is the ability to do many things competently. When one thinks of cartridges that fit this description, it's not surprising that the .308 Winchester and .357 Magnum, among numerous others, come to mind. One of the reasons is that ammunition manufacturers produce a wide variety of loads in these calibers.

For preparing reduced loads in the .223, many powders such as Power Pistol, IMR 4198, Titegroup, Clays, and Unique are useful.

A bolt action .223 Remington such as this Savage Axis can be much more than just a .223.



With careful loading, it is possible to increase the versatility of almost any cartridge. For example, a center fire small bore such as the .223 Remington can be loaded to duplicate other lower-powered cartridges such as the .22 Hornet, .22 WMR, or even the .22 LR. There are some issues that must be considered for this to be safe and practical. For example, it can be

dangerous to simply use reduced charges of slow burning powders in cartridges that have a relatively large capacity for the bore diameter. It has been reported that this practice leads to detonations that produce disastrous results.

So, to produce light loads the course of action is not to simply reduce the powder charge well below normal levels, but rather to use rel-

atively small charges of faster burning powders. For many years, this has been done using powders that more often than not are used in handgun or shotgun ammunition. Older handbooks sometimes listed such reduced loads, but these were generally for use with cast bullets.

My goal in this project was to enable my .223 Remington to duplicate the performance of the .22 LR,



.22 WMR and .22 Hornet calibers by using appropriate loads. Loading data of this type is not often encountered, but such data does exist. For example, tables of loading data from Hodgdon show reduced loads for the .223 Remington utilizing Tightgroup, Clays, and Trail Boss. However, all suggested loads are with a 55-grain bullet of the full metal jacket type. I wanted to develop loads that would be useful for varmint hunting under appropriate conditions, which means expanding bullets of different weights.

In addition to the performance issue, I wanted to make sure that the accuracy of the loads would be sufficient to make them suitable for quiet, short-range varmint hunting. Moreover, with some of the loads requiring such small powder charges, a pound of powder can load 1,000 to 2,000 cartridges, which makes for economical shooting.

The list of powders suitable for reduced loads in many cartridges is rather long. Over the years I have used many types, but for this project I selected Hodgdon Titegroup and Clays, Alliant Unique and Power Pistol, and IMR 4198. The last of these was selected to achieve velocities approximately equal to those produced by the .22 Hornet, utilizing charges that are approximately two-thirds of a full-power load. The very fast-burning Titegroup and Clays were chosen for the lowest velocity loads, whereas Unique and Power Pistol were appropriate for develop-



▲ This 0.26-inch group was produced at 50 yards by a load consisting of the 40-grain Hornady V-Max with a charge of 7.0 grains of Power Pistol.

ing intermediate velocities.


An enormous range of suitable bullets is available for loading the .223 Remington, but with the objective being to produce reduced loads, I chose to work with bullets in the 40- to 55-grain range. Accordingly, I chose the 40-grain Hornady V-Max and Sierra BlitzKing,

the 50-grain Speer TNT and Sierra spitzer, and the 55-grain Hornady SPSX bullets.

The accompanying table shows the loading parameters and the results obtained. Cases utilized were Federal or Remington as indicated. Five cartridges were assembled for each load and velocities

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Although the .223 Remington is a fine varmint cartridge in its own right, with judicious loading it can also duplicate the performance of the .22 LR, .22 WMR and .22 Hornet.

were measured 10 feet from the muzzle using a Competition Electronics ProChrono chronograph. The loads were tested in a Savage Axis with a Leupold 3-9X scope, and accuracy is expressed as the size of a five-shot group followed by the closest four shots. This eliminates the effect of one errant shot caused by a sudden breeze on a range where it is almost always windy. As shown by the data, the tested loads traveled at velocities ranging from approximately that of a .22 LR to that of a .22 Hornet. For example, the 55-grain bullet propelled by a 3.8-grain Titegroup charge gave a velocity of 1,307 ft/sec, whereas a 40-grain bullet propelled by a 16-grain charge of IMR 4198 gave a velocity of 2,523 ft/sec, which approximates a .22 Hornet load. Some loads gave velocities between these limits and

### PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

Bullet	OAL, in.	Powder	Grain	Velocity <sup>a</sup>	Accuracy, in.
40 gr. Hornady V-Max	2.250 (F)	Power Pistol	7.0	2233	0.26/0.26 <sup>b</sup>
40 gr. Hornady V-Max	2.250 (R)	IMR 4198	16.0	2523	1.10/0.73 <sup>c</sup>
40 gr. Hornady V-Max	2.250 (R)	Clays	4.0	1525	0.68/0.60 <sup>b</sup>
40 gr. Hornady V-Max	2.250 (R)	Titegroup	3.8	1576	0.46/0.25 <sup>b</sup>
40 gr. Sierra BlitzKing	2.250 (F)	Power Pistol	7.0	2233	1.55/0.95 <sup>c</sup>
40 gr. Sierra BlitzKing	2.250 (F)	Unique	6.5	2133	0.51/0.28 <sup>b</sup>
50 gr. Sierra SP	2.250 (F)	Titegroup	4.0	1453	0.47/0.38 <sup>b</sup>
50 gr. Speer TNT	2.250 (F)	IMR 4198	15.0	2281	1.53/1.00 <sup>c</sup>
50 gr. Speer TNT	2.250 (F)	IMR 4198	16.0	2422	0.80/0.71 <sup>c</sup>
55 gr. Hornady SPSX	2.200 (F)	Titegroup	3.8	1307	0.48/0.44 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Average velocity is for 5 shots.

<sup>b</sup> Groups at 50 yards

<sup>c</sup> Groups at 100 yards

Accuracy values given as group size for five shots/best four shots.

Federal or Remington cases denoted as (F) or (R).

*These loads were safe and reliable in the author's rifle, but neither the author nor the publisher accepts any responsibility for their preparation and use by others. These loads should be approached with caution.*



are, therefore, approximately equal to the .22 WMR. Consequently, the results show the original plan was successful.

The accuracy of lower-velocity loads was tested at 50 yards while the accuracy of higher-velocity loads was tested at 100 yards, and some loads produced outstanding accuracy. For example, the 40-grain Hornady V-Max driven by a charge of 7.0 grains of Power Pistol gave a velocity of 2,233 ft/sec and a small, ragged hole for a five-shot group at 50 yards.

Also, the 50-grain Speer TNT propelled by a charge of 16.0 grains of IMR 4198 gave a velocity of 2,422 ft/sec and a 0.80-inch group at 100 yards. I consider this level of accuracy to be exceptional. Additionally, as mentioned above, a load that consumes only 7.0 grains of powder makes it possible to load 1,000 rounds per pound. The noise level is significantly reduced and there is essentially no

recoil, but such loads are not for use in autoloading rifles.

The results obtained in this work show that not only are reduced loads for the .223 Remington capable of duplicating the .22 LR, .22 WMR and .22 Hornet, but they also show such loads can be very accurate and economical. I plan to keep some of the loads prepared for special occasions. **GW**



▲ Although these cartridges are all loaded with 40-grain Hornady V-Max bullets, the similarity ends there. On the left is a low-velocity load that duplicates the .22 LR, in the middle a more potent load that gives .22 WMR power, and on the right a load that produces velocities around 2,500 ft/sec, which is similar to the power of the .22 Hornet.

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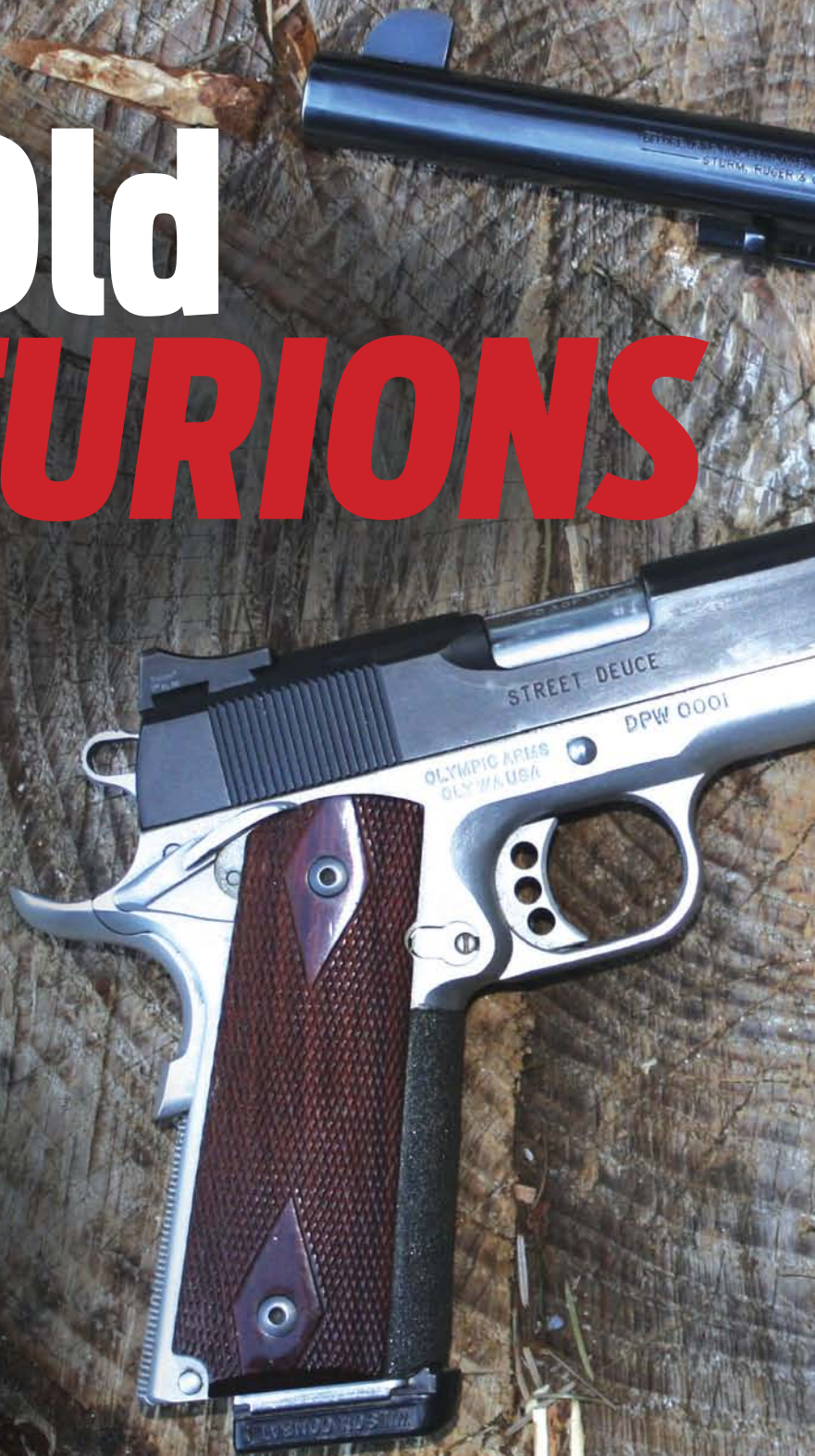
# The Old *CENTURIONS*

Text & Photos By Dave Workman

Two Classic Cartridges  
— the .45 ACP and .45  
Colt — Still Have What It  
Takes to Stop Fights

**W**hoever heard of a 100-year-old charging into battle and stopping a fight?

By the time one reaches the century mark, the terms “frail” and “tired” seem to show up in most conversations. That applies only to people, not cartridges. After more than a hundred years, there are two champions of proven power and performance that are a long, long way from giving up the ghost: The .45 ACP and its older sibling, the .45 Colt.

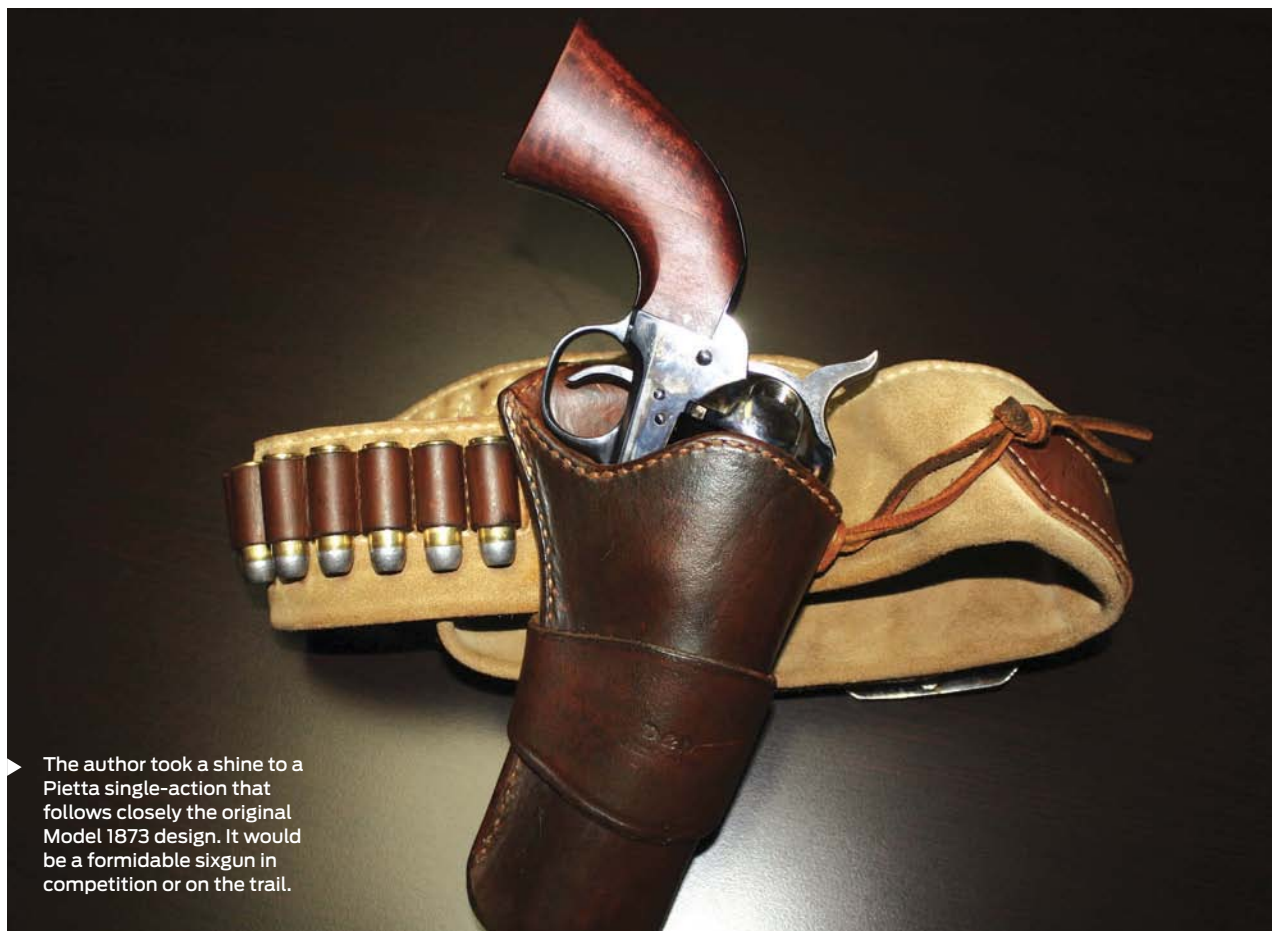






Be it a semi-auto or an old-style thumb-buster, the .45-caliber handgun remains a stalwart after more than a century of service. Workman's 7 1/2-inch Ruger New Vaquero is a very accurate sixgun with his handloads, and the custom Olympic Arms Street Deuce is a powerhouse with plenty of fight-stopping firepower.





The author took a shine to a Pietta single-action that follows closely the original Model 1873 design. It would be a formidable sixgun in competition or on the trail.

Back in the day, when it seemed like some gun magazines had nothing better to discuss than “9mm versus .45” until we got so sick of it that we stopped reading those magazines, the one comparison that would have made perfect sense, but never happened, was the .45 versus .45. Nobody, far as I can recall, went anywhere near that one.

Perhaps it’s because the “.45 Long Colt” — a misnomer since there never was any such cartridge, and the one we’re thinking of was never officially called that — was considered a has-been during the heyday of those boringly repetitive articles. It was a “cowboy cartridge” from a throwback era, an anachronism whose time had come and gone.

Even the .45 ACP’s reputation took it on the chin a few times from the 9mm devotees, who considered the nearly-as-ancient Luger round hot stuff thanks to double-stack magazines and the spray-and-pray mentality.

For the past few years, as I get closer to some semblance of retirement, the idea of parking my trusty single-action Colt Commander in favor of a single-action revolver chambered for the .45 Colt as an everyday carry gun becomes more intriguing. I don’t really care to chase brass all over the range floor or the landscape, and anything you can do with a 230-grain FMJ or JHP fired from a semi-auto can be done with a 225-grain JHP or even a 250-grain lead bullet. Old western cemeteries are filled with the proof.

## ■ NEW PIETTA

What inspired me to reflect on all of this was a pal’s recent acquisition of a Pietta Model 1873 single-action sixgun. A remarkably handsome specimen with a color case finish on the frame, one-piece walnut grips fitted precisely to the blue steel frame and a front sight blade tall enough to allow simple stoning, this smokewagon is a winner.

We compared it to my Ruger New Vaquero, with its solid blue frame and barrel, aftermarket Ajax yellow “aged ivory” grips and a smooth, reliable action. I’ve worked up two loads for this gun using Hornady’s 255-grain lead flatpoint ahead of 6.9 grains of Hodgdon HP38 or a 250-grain cast lead bullet ahead of 8.0 grains of Winchester.



ter Auto Comp. They both check out at about 900 fps, which is comparable to a 200-grain JHP out of a Model 1911 and a bit faster than a 230-grain FMJ.

The 250-grainer also works well on top of 5.8 grains of Trail Boss, with its funny donut-shaped kernels that just about fill an empty case. That chugs along at about 725 fps. I have also experienced decent results with 15.0 grains of 2400 pushing a Speer 250-grain lead SWC across the screens at just over 900 fps, a load that falls slightly under the maximum recommended with that bullet and powder in Speer Manual No. 13.

Out of my two New Vaquero models, one with a 4 5/8-inch barrel and the other with a 7 1/2-inch

barrel, I can bounce a tin can around consistently with a two-hand hold out to 25-30 yards, and farther if necessary with all of these loads. Incidentally, all of the loads above are within pressure levels for standard frame revolvers, but consult your loading manual. Each manual should list specific heavier loads that should only be used in a Thompson/Center Contender or Ruger Blackhawk, or some other heavier frame revolver.

Both the Pietta and Ruger delight me for another reason. They have transfer bar firing mechanisms, meaning that you can load all six chambers safely. On the trail or in an urban defense situation, that additional round could come in handy.

While I prefer to carry factory ammo of the same brand as the local police or sheriff in my Commander, or any other .45-caliber semi-auto I happen to be packing, I've spent a good deal of time at the loading bench with the .45 ACP, putting together comparable loads for practice, or for those occasions when it rides with me into the boonies.

I've known two men in my life who killed large black bears with a .45 Model 1911. Neither of those animals ever got up to complain about lack of stopping power, and on both occasions they were in rather surly moods.

For my .45 ACP, I run a 230-grain FMJ ahead of 5.3 grains of HP38 or 6.3 grains of Auto Comp, two powders which I've grown rather fond of. They both burn clean and fast enough to reliably cycle a slide, and they produce good accuracy in my pistols.

I have also had very good success with the 185-grain Nosler JHP ahead of 6.2 grains of HP38, and 5.5 grains of Titegroup. Both of these loads cycle well through all of my Model 1911 variations.

Lest anybody be skeptical, you do not want to be hit by a .45-caliber bullet even a hundred yards down-range, so some serious damage will be incurred within 25 yards.


## ■ STOPPING POWER

Early in my career, I had a pal who worked for the local sheriff's department. Deputy Jack Beard and I were chatting one evening and he remarked that he was a firm believer in a "big, slow-moving bullet." That observation never left me, and the principle still stands all these years later.

So, should the .45 — in either the



Compare the Pietta (left) with author's Ruger New Vaquero. Both are fast, with smooth actions and may be carried safely with six rounds in the cylinder.



“Should the .45 — in either the old Colt cartridge which has been around since 1873, or the ACP version which came along just over a century ago — be considered a modern day stopper? Bet the farm on it.”

A look down into the action of the Pietta shows its transfer bar (upper right), ► and the same design improvement appears in the Ruger New Vaquero (this page). ◀





warping along at more than 1,000 fps, and there are a couple rated at more than 1,100 fps. Tell me that's not going to hurt.

Hornady produces a .45 Colt with a 185-grain FTX bullet in its Critical Defense family. It leaves the muzzle at 920 fps with 348 foot-pounds of energy, enough to knock some attacker flat on his back.

Winchester offers a .45 Colt with a 225-grain Silvertip JHP that also clocks at 920 fps, and with a reported muzzle energy of 423 foot-pounds. Can you say "Wham?"

Speer has a 250-grain Gold Dot JHP that, by comparison, sort of lopes out at 750 fps with 312 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. Although that's not quite as fast and energetic as the other loads, it's still sure to get someone's attention.

There are so many high-energy .45 ACP factory loads available that there's not enough room here to list them all. What

they all have in common is a close-range impact that resembles being hit with a 10-pound sledgehammer, and most guys I know might opt for the hammer.

## ■ NOSTALGIA?

Now, guns are fun, but cartridges are a kick, especially two old-timers like the .45s. I get a chuckle out of listening to people who suggest the old warhorse rounds have outlived their usefulness. Those enamored with today's hot stuff — the .40 S&W, .357 SIG and 10mm — tend to overlook the history of both .45s.

One round helped tame the West and the other helped win a couple of world wars.

Call me a hopeless romantic or somebody born a hundred years too late. When the .45 Colt came along back in 1872, it was the high point of the "Wild West." Men still drove cattle a thousand miles from Texas to Kansas. James Butler

old Colt cartridge which has been around since 1873, or the ACP version which came along just over a century ago — be considered modern day stoppers? Bet the farm on it.

Thanks to developments of new propellants and bullet designs, both the .45 ACP and .45 Colt remain sizzlers today, more so than when they first appeared. While consulting with the 2015 edition of Hodgdon's Annual Manual, I found loads for the .45 ACP using 185-grain JHPs that sprint out of the muzzle at over 1,000 fps.

Slide on over to the .45 Colt and see what can be done with a 180-grain cast lead flat-point and you will find several safe loads

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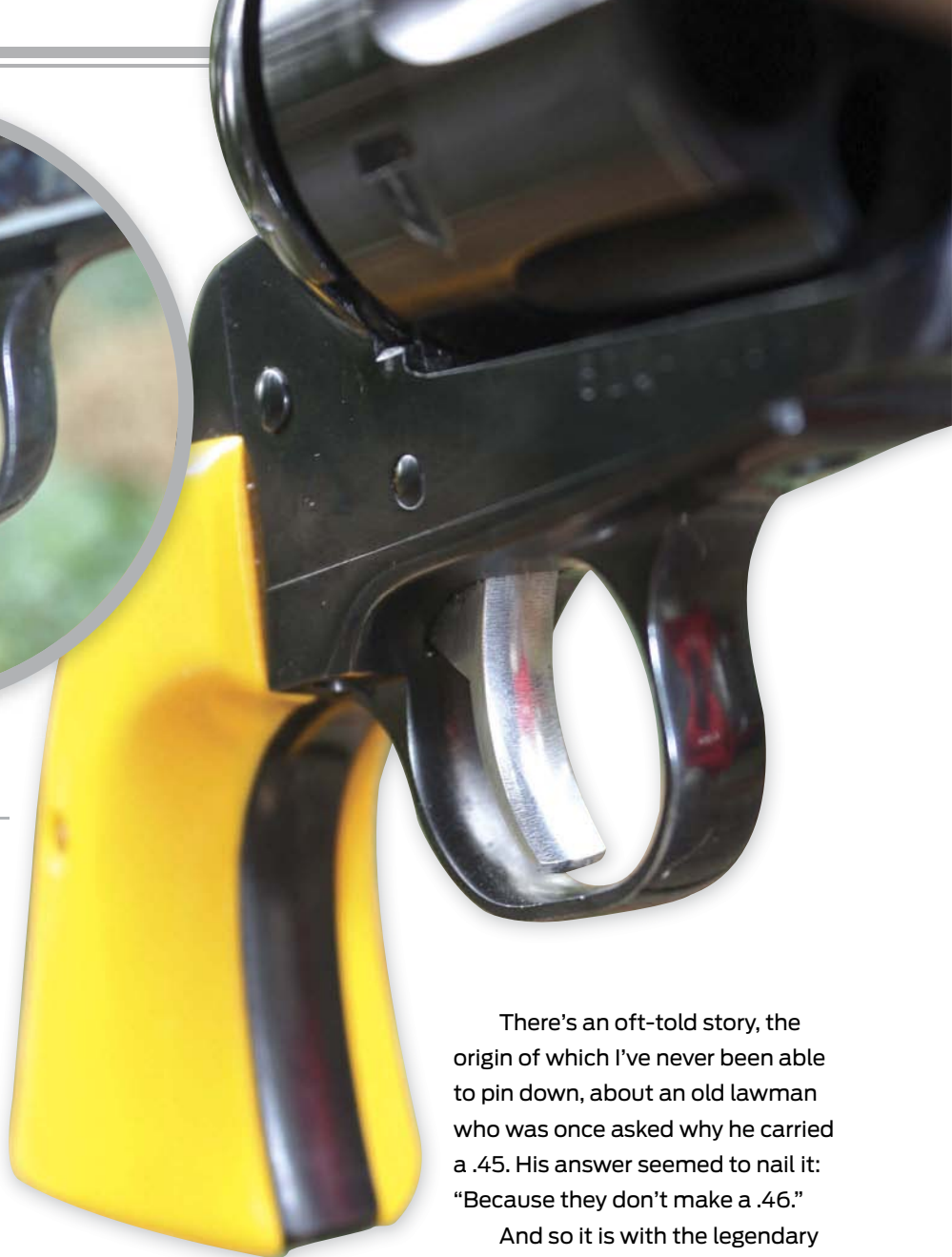
▲ There is one significant difference found on the Pietta: its trigger is noticeably narrow...

Hickok was still alive, and so were George Armstrong Custer and Jesse James. Wyatt Earp was still in his mid-20s and William Bonney — a.k.a. “Billy the Kid” — still was something of a kid.

That a cartridge introduced when those men were alive is still a viable round today speaks well of its design and its continued development 143 years later.

The .45 ACP went along with “Black Jack” Pershing in his pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916. A year later, it traveled with the Yanks to Europe and saw plenty of combat in the trenches of France, both in sidearms and in the famed Thompson sub-machine gun.

It became a gangster’s gun and a crime-stopper in the Roaring Twenties, went back to war in the 1940s, and again in the 1950s, and still again in the 1960s. Lawmen adopted it. A retired Texas Ranger of my acquaintance carried a lightweight Commander on the job.



▲ ...while the New Vaquero has a much wider trigger and a crisp let-off.

Just when everybody thought it was time to retire the cartridge, it came roaring back to life with the exploding popularity of action pistol competitions, and even with a new generation of police. The Model 1911 became the most cloned and customized pistol on the planet, and the .45 ACP cartridge made it so.

There’s an oft-told story, the origin of which I’ve never been able to pin down, about an old lawman who was once asked why he carried a .45. His answer seemed to nail it: “Because they don’t make a .46.”

And so it is with the legendary .45, be it a Colt or an ACP. Both are in for the long haul, and I suspect that no matter what hot new whiz-bang comes along to become the cover story in every gun magazine on the rack, that big, slow-moving bullet will keep coming back from whatever grave to which it is prematurely assigned. **GW**

*\* NOTE: Always use caution and consult a loading manual before producing your own ammunition. Start with the minimum recommended loads and gradually work up from there.*



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# GUNSMITHING



Before we begin work on the rifle project, we need to establish a baseline accuracy standard for the gun. My son Kyle shot very good groups with the factory Remington M700, with both factory loads and handloads.






# Project **VARMINT** (Part 1)

Text & Photos by Steve Seiberts

## A Remington M700 Gets Prepped to be Transformed into a Customized Varmint Rifle

**T**his column marks the start of a new Project Gun, the Remington M700. I covered a brief inspection of the rifle in an earlier column, but now we are going to get into the nuts and bolts of turning one of the country's best bolt-action rifles into a fully customized varmint rifle.





**“ We won’t permanently glue the action and barrel together ... I’ll also show how to get the rifle apart if you do inadvertently glue it together. ”**

◀ The Wenig Gunstocks semi-inletted walnut stock. This part is done by machine, but the final fitting is all done by hand.

The rifle for this Varmint Rifle Project will get the full treatment, including stock fitting, glass bedding and finishing a new semi-inletted walnut stock, which includes installing the recoil pad, and sling swivel studs. I will install and fit a new match grade trigger and stainless match grade barrel, accurizing the action and setting the minimal headspace. I will also install a new firing pin and, finally, I’ll show you how to glass bed an H-S Precision fiberglass stock with bedding block system in order to get maximum accuracy from the system.



I'll talk about and demonstrate tools, tips and techniques to get the most accuracy out of just about any bolt action rifle.

## ■ BEDDING BASICS

First, let's talk about accurizing a rifle via bedding the rifle stock by tossing out some terms we'll be using: glass bedding, pillar bedding, skim bedding, and spot bedding.

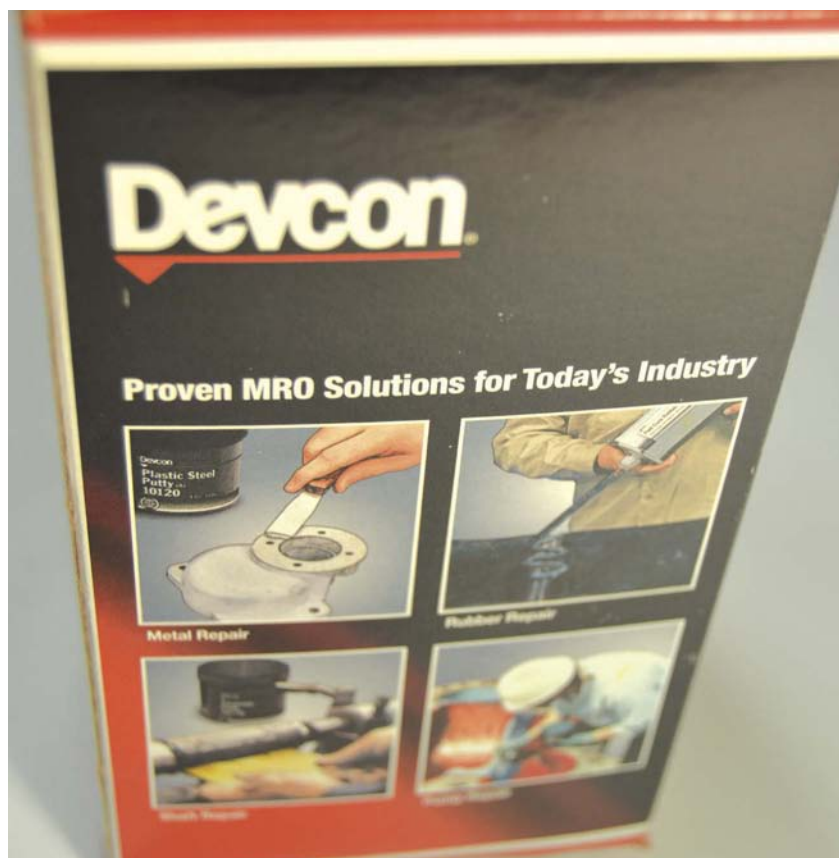
Glass bedding — which is really somewhat of a misnomer these days, since we usually don't use fiberglass as a bedding material anymore — refers to the process of applying some type of two-part epoxy to the stock of a rifle in order to remove the gaps between the stock and the barreled action. The bedding process stabilizes the stock and prevents the barreled action from shifting during firing.

Years ago, Benchrest Shooters, a group obsessed with accuracy, found that applying a thin film of fiberglass (later epoxy) stabilized the barreled action in the wood stock, resulting in tighter, more consistent shot groups.

Remember, accuracy is all about consistency from shot to shot. Consistent marksmanship fundamentals, consistent ammunition, and consistently repeatable interactions among the various components of the firearm all contribute to maximum accuracy.

We won't permanently glue the action and barrel together. However, if bedding is done wrong the action and stock can bond together, so we have to use a release agent and techniques to prevent this.

I'll cover this entire stock



▲ Devcon steel bed two-part epoxy putty. This can be ordered through Brownells.

sitting and bedding process over the course of several columns. I'll also show how to get the rifle apart if you do inadvertently glue it together.

## ■ PILLAR BEDDING

Small shifts in the barreled action will have a huge impact on the

size of the groups on the target downrange. Tightening the action screws won't help because this only compresses the wood fibers between the barreled action on top and the floorplate metal on the bottom. After a few shots, the barreled action will start to shift again, especially in the larger calibers.


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Locating holes used in the making of the stock, which will also be used in the installation of the recoil pad.

## ■ SKIM BEDDING

Skim bedding is usually used when we have already glass bedded the rifle but there are minor voids, pinholes or other imperfections in the bedding job that we need to fix. If you find yourself in this situation, you cannot apply bedding compound to a specific spot. You have to apply it over the entire existing bedding surface, otherwise you may create a high area in the bedding where the action is only sitting on this high spot.

Here, we just want to apply a thin film of epoxy that will patch up the job, sort of like trying to finish drywall compound in your house. It can be done, but it's not a quick fix.

organic wood fibers failed under the torque of the action screws.

Inserting hollow metal sleeves or spacers ("pillars" in gun-speak) inside the stock between the barreled action and the bottom metal lets us tighten the action screws to the specified torque, ensuring those fasteners won't loosen up any time soon.

This led to the development of pillar bedding. Pillar bedding came about when those same Benchrest Shooters found that when they tightened the action screws, the wood compressed and the screws eventually backed out because the



## ■ SPOT BEDDING

The other method is spot bedding. With this procedure, we just apply a small amount of bedding material behind the recoil lug and at the rear of the receiver tang. This technique is great for the hobbyist gunsmith that doesn't want to plunge into a full pillar-bedding job, but still wants some of the accuracy enhancement that a glass bedding job provides.

This is the technique I'll demonstrate using the factory Remington laminated wood stock next month.

## ■ TOOLS AND MATERIALS

In order to spot bed this rifle, we'll need scrapers to get the polyurethane finish off the stock where the epoxy will go; we want

the epoxy sticking to wood, not finish.

We also need inletting pins and stockmakers screws (see photos). A couple other items we'll need are bedding tape and modeling clay, but in a pinch you can use electrical tape or duct tape.

We also need some sort of release agent. Brownells sells a great spray release that I've used for years. Spray-on cooking oil actually works pretty well and doesn't add calories! I will also use a good grade of paste floor wax along with the spray. Using both ensures that when we screw the rifle together with the epoxy, it will come apart easily. The spray works well for covering large areas, and the paste works well on internal/external screw threads and other small areas.

## ■ EPOXY COMPOUNDS ABOUND

I want to talk about the epoxy itself. Over the years, many types of bedding compounds have been tried and used and all are of the two-part variety.

In the early years fiberglass liquids and gels were used, and Brownells Acraglas was the primary material. Acraglas is a two-part epoxy where you mix the resin with the hardener together in a specific ratio. It comes in either a liquid version or the gel, and it was the compound I learned to use when going through gunsmithing school. I also used it at the National Match Gunsmithing Course at Rock Island Arsenal, where I was taught how to accurize the M1A rifle for National Match competition.



▲ The Wenig stock has a nice palm swell that makes it comfortable to shoot.

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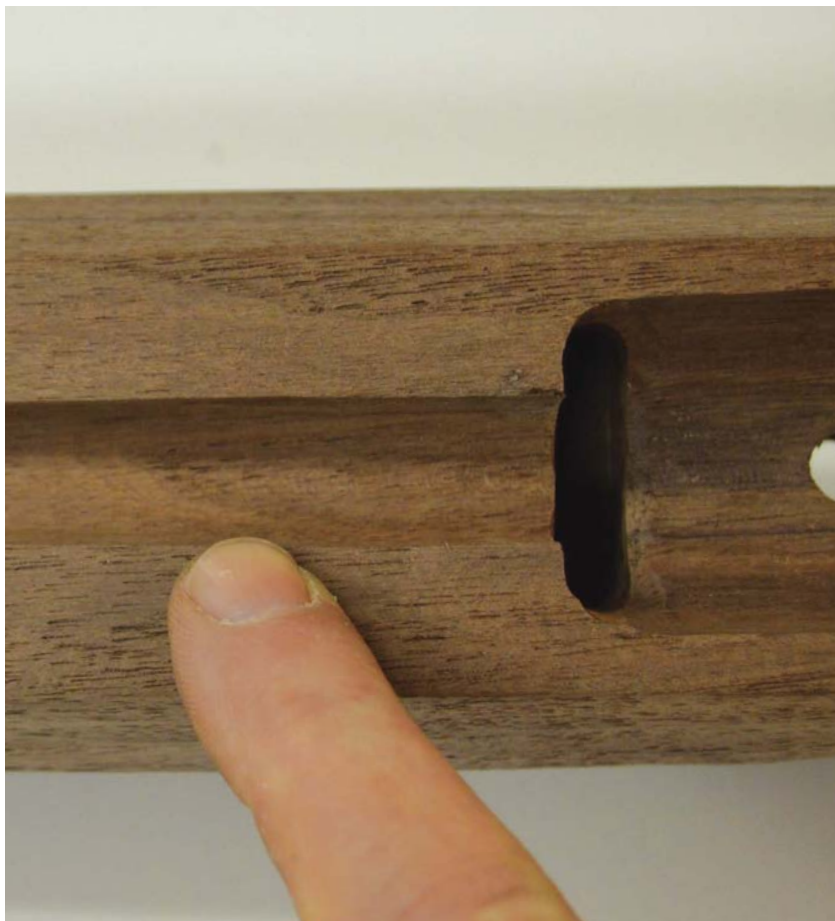
**www.ultimak.com**

Acraglas is still a good choice to use on wood stocks where we want to hide the fact that we have used a bedding material. If I'm fitting a high-end grade of wood stock to the rifle I'm building, I don't want to use an epoxy that will be visible afterwards. Using Acraglas mixed with a wood coloring can hide the tiny gaps between the wood and metal and, it's almost invisible.

The Marine Corps used to use Marine-Tex, which many people, myself included, found very difficult to work with.

Benchrest Shooters, once again, came up with a very good epoxy called Devcon. This is a two-part epoxy made of a semi-viscous steel based resin. When mixed with the hardener it becomes putty with the consistency of peanut butter, which is very easy to work with.

It hardens into a very strong steel-based block that can actually

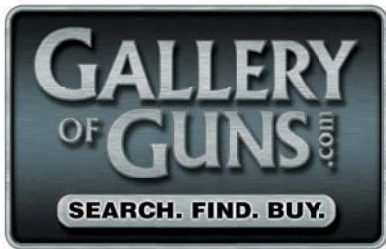


▲ This shot shows that the barrel channel is cut out just enough to get the stockmaker started. There is quite a bit of material left to remove.



▲ The Wenig stock used in this project gun is standard grade American walnut, semi-inletted for the gunsmith to begin fitting. Wenig offers many types and grades of wood for both rifles and shotguns.





# HENRY

## Golden Boy & Big Boy Tribute Editions

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### Golden Boy EMS



**NEW!**

- Blue Finish
- American Walnut Stock
- Octagon Barrel

Item #: **H004EMS** Capacity: **16+1**  
 Caliber: **22LR** BBL: **20"**  
 Sights: **Front: Beaded**  
 Rear: **Marbles Semi-Buckhorn White Diamond**



- Engraved Nickel Plated Brass Receiver



### Golden Boy Fireman



- Blue Finish
- American Walnut Stock
- Octagon Barrel

Item #: **H004FM** Capacity: **16+1**  
 Caliber: **22LR** BBL: **20"**  
 Sights: **Front: Beaded**  
 Rear: **Marbles Semi-Buckhorn White Diamond**



- Engraved Nickel Plated Brass Receiver



### Golden Boy Law Enforcement



- Blue Finish
- American Walnut Stock
- Octagon Barrel

Item #: **H004LE** Capacity: **16+1**  
 Caliber: **22LR** BBL: **20"**  
 Sights: **Front: Beaded**  
 Rear: **Marbles Semi-Buckhorn White Diamond**



- Engraved Nickel Plated Brass Receiver



### Big Boy Truckers



- Blue Finish
- American Walnut Stock
- Octagon Barrel

Item #: **H006TT** Capacity: **10+1**  
 Caliber: **44M | 44SP** BBL: **20"**  
 Sights: **Front: Beaded**  
 Rear: **Marbles Semi-Buckhorn White Diamond**



- Engraved Solid Brass Receiver

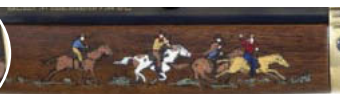


### Big Boy Cowboy Edition II



- Blue Finish
- American Walnut Stock
- Octagon Barrel

Item #: **H006CB2** Capacity: **10+1**  
 Caliber: **44M | 44SP** BBL: **20"**  
 Sights: **Front: Beaded**  
 Rear: **Marbles Semi-Buckhorn White Diamond**



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The Remington X-Mark Pro trigger is adjustable for weight from 2 to 3.5 pounds by adjusting the 1/16 set screw in the face of the trigger. For a varmint rifle, 2 pounds is about right.

be drilled, tapped, and otherwise machined. It's used to rebuild steel machinery and gears in many industries.

Brownells sells a similar product called Steel-Bed that also works very well. The downside to this steel epoxy is that it's not cheap. One pound will run about \$40, and you will only get a couple of rifles from it if you are doing a full pillar-bedding job. If you are doing a spot bed, you will get several jobs out of a one-pound tub.

Devcon is made in aluminum and titanium, and I've used all of

them at various times with great success. However, I will say that the titanium Devcon, while quite strong, has a very short working time. In other words, when you mix the two parts together you only have a few short minutes before it starts to harden.

Devcon steel and Brownells Steel-Bed have very generous working times, giving the gunsmith plenty of time to get the rifle screwed together and the excess epoxy cleaned up before it starts to set up.

That's it in a nutshell. I will

demonstrate how to do a spot-bedding job next month using the factory stock for 'smiths that don't want to jump into a full bedding job, but still want to gain some measure of accuracy and stability from a bedding job.

## ■ BASELINE PREP

Before we get to work, I want to shoot the rifle with a variety of factory loads and old-standby handloads to establish a baseline accuracy standard for the gun.

Remember, the better the gun shoots initially, the smaller the results



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▲ I worked up two test loads for this range session. Here is one of the loaded rounds with the Redding Competition Seating die.

we'll get. In other words, if we are starting out with a rifle that shoots 5-shot groups of 2 inches at 100 yards, it will be easy to get it cut in half at least, depending on caliber and other factors.

Conversely, if I take this heavy barreled rifle in .22-250 and it already shoots less than one inch at 100 yards, it may take a large



▲ I used two bullets for this first shooting session: the Hornady 50-grain Z-Max, and the 52-grain Berger FB HP.



amount of work and money to get that group size to shrink in half with consistency.

There is a rule of diminishing returns between money spent and reduction in group sizes. Once you get groups substantially under an inch, you'll spend more money and effort to get smaller groups. Sometimes it takes working on the rifle, and sometimes it takes carefully developing quality handloads.

For this initial range session, I took several factory loads and two handloads. The factory loads were Federal's 50-grain load utilizing Barnes' Triple-Shok bullet, and their 60-grain offering using the Nosler Partition. This would be good to use when you need a deeply-penetrating load, such as a coyote load.

The 60-grain bullet is on the ragged edge of stability with the 1:14-inch twist of the factory Remington Varmint barrel. We'll correct this when we rebarrel the rifle with the Shilen Stainless Match barrel with the 1:7-inch twist. That twist will stabilize even 70-grain .22-caliber bullets for long range shooting.

I also chose Federal's 55-grain softpoint as a kind of standard general-purpose varmint load, and Federal's 55-grain loads with the Nosler Ballistic Tip. Two more factory loads I used were the Hornady 40- and 55-grain V-Max rounds.

For handloads, I chose the Hornady 50-grain Z-Max bullet over 36.0 grains of Reloader 15 with a Federal case and Winchester Large Rifle primer, and the Berger 52-grain Varmint bullet. The Berger bullet is a very accurate match grade bullet with a large hollow point for great expansion. I also used 36.0 grains of Reloader 15 with a Federal case and a Winches-

ter primer for the Berger handload.

All handloads were assembled with the outstanding Redding Big Boss press with a Redding Competition micrometer seating die. This seating die lets me set the seating depth of the bullet to .001-inch increments. This way, I can have the bullet sitting just a few thousandths off the lands of the barrel for best accuracy.

For the scope I used the Leupold 6.5x20 VX-3L varmint scope, and the spotting scope was the Nightforce 20x70 tactical spotting scope, which made finding those little .22-caliber holes much easier. Once the rifle build really gets underway I'll be stretching out the Match barrel to 200 and 300 yards, and the spotting scope will really come in handy.

## ■ BASELINE ESTABLISHED

The rifle shot really well. I shot one Hornady load, two Federal loads and two handloads.

The Federal rounds loaded with the Nosler Ballistic Tip shot the best, turning in a 5-shot group of 1.049 inches. My handload with the Berger 52-grain FB Varmint bullets shot second best, with a 5-shot group size of 1.103 inches. The grouping was actually better than that, with four shots going into one tiny hole.

## ■ TODAY IS GOOD, TOMORROW WILL BE BETTER

There is a difference between inherent accuracy and potential accuracy. The Federal load shows what the rifle is capable of today, and the handload shows what we can expect from the rifle when we're finished. **GW**

## CONTACT

### **Redding Reloading Equipment**

**607-753-3331**

[Redding-Reloading.com](http://Redding-Reloading.com)

### **Wenig Custom Gunstocks**

**660-547-3334**

[Wenig.com](http://Wenig.com)

### **Nightforce Optics, Inc.**

**208-476-9814**

[NightForceOptics.com](http://NightForceOptics.com)

### **Berger Bullets**

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[BergerBullets.com](http://BergerBullets.com)

### **Blue Grass Sportsmen's League**

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[BGSLLinc.com](http://BGSLLinc.com)

### **Hornady Manufacturing Company**

**800-338-3220**

[Hornady.com](http://Hornady.com)

### **Leupold & Stevens**

**800-538-7653**

[Leupold.com](http://Leupold.com)

### **Oehler, Inc.**

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### **Federal Premium Ammunition**

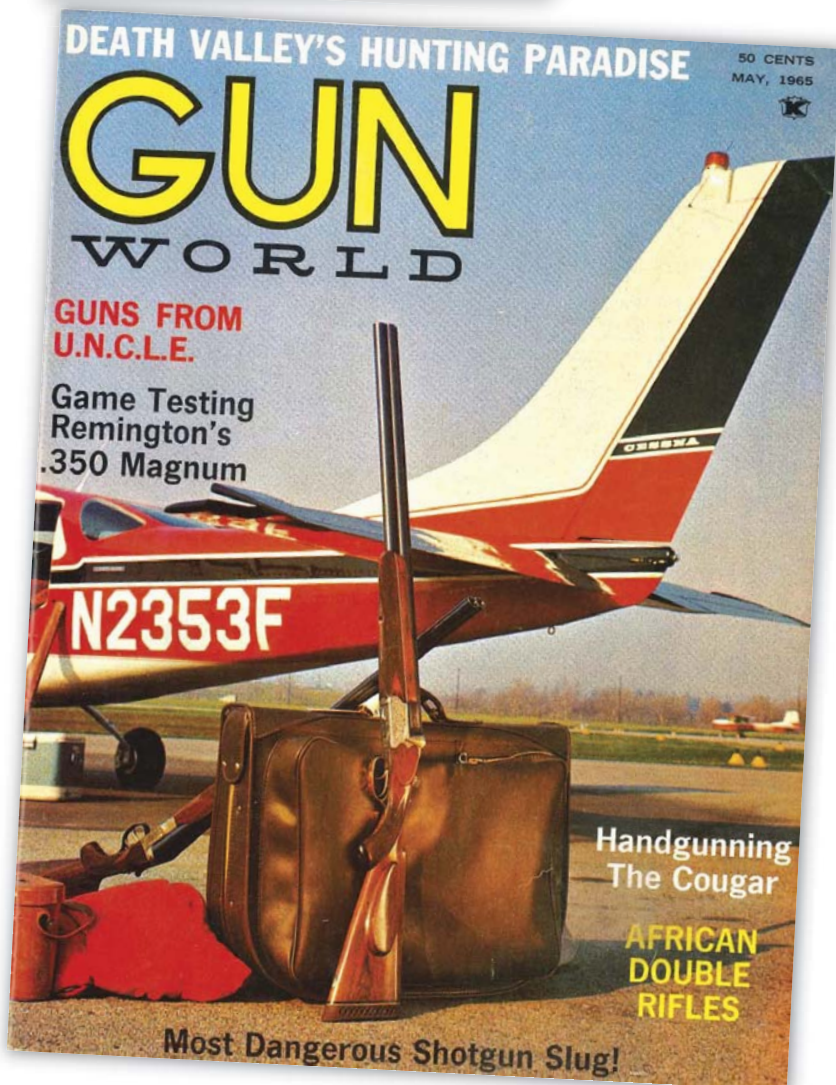
**800-379-1732**

[FederalPremium.com](http://FederalPremium.com)

### **Brownells Inc.**

**800-741-0015**

[Brownells.com](http://Brownells.com)



▲ There's nothing like packing a batch of circa-1965 outdoor gear for a quick Cessna flight to test out a new hunting spot. At least that's what our editorial team must have thought as they lined everything up on the Van Nuys airport tarmac before heading off to hunt ducks and varmints in Death Valley.

# Bygone *BOLT ACTIONS*

By Craig Hodgkins

When it comes to proprietary calibers, the question is often “which came first...the rifle or the cartridge?”

The primary field test article in the May 1965 issue of Gun World

featured an early look at Remington's Model 600 rifle in .350 Magnum. As with a few other select rifles of that era (more about that in a bit), the Model 600 was launched in conjunction with a corresponding

cartridge, in this case, a .350 Remington Magnum, an item we covered briefly in this space a couple of months ago.

An advertisement for the rifle goes right after the primary selling point, and as might be expected, the Remington copywriters weren't shy about tossing out a few superlatives. "Power?" it opened, "Mister, you've just bought yourself the most powerful magnum ever made." The Model 600 was touted as the "first sporting rifle with a laminated stock," and advertisements also informed a curious public that the proprietary cartridge offered "up to 3,260 foot-pounds of brush-bucking energy that will stop any game in North America!"

Fifty years of 20-20 hindsight tell us that the Model 600 received mixed reviews from gun writers immediately after its launch, but instead of focusing on performance issues, those reviewers tended to focus on what they believed to be



▲ With the launch of the .224 Varmint-master, Weatherby sought to bring high-velocity cartridge performance to the varmint rifle.



unusual design choices (besides the gun's five-layer laminated walnut and beech stock, "protected by DuPont RKW—toughest finish on any gun," it also featured impressed checkering and a detachable ventilated plastic rib).

In addition, although the rifle's relatively light weight (6.5 pounds) and the short barrel (18.5 inches) improved handling, some testers felt these very features led to increased felt recoil.

However, the Gun World team — which had previewed the 600 at Remington headquarters in late 1964 before receiving a test model the following spring — thought the powerful rifle and belted cartridge duo was more than up to the task, namely on a wild goat hunt on the Santa Catalina Islands.

"Remington's newest version of the Model 600 carbine," the piece stated, "has a heavier action for the .350 magnum round, as well as a laminated stock and a heavy recoil pad...With plastic rib removed, the Model 600 still boasts a clean and compact outline, although some may prefer it removed."

For range testing, Dan Cotterman mounted a "Bushnell Scopechief II four-power tube, using the new Conetrol mounts designed specifically for this carbine." And although at least half of the review centered on the



**“Show me a carbine with real power and I’ll buy it!”**

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 □ That’s not all you’re getting.

□ The Model 600 Magnum is the first sporting rifle with a laminated stock. (A handsome, warp-free combination of walnut and beech, protected by Du Pont RKW—toughest finish on any gun.)  
 □ It has a stock-hugging bolt handle. And a ventilated rib barrel. (The matted top forms a quick “sight line” that gets you on running game faster.)  
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**Remington DU PONT**

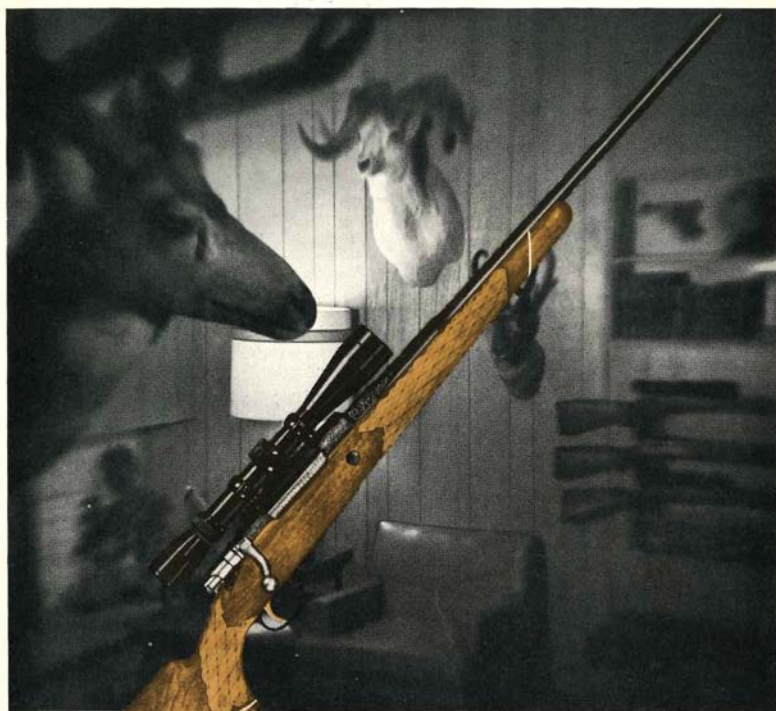
Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn. 06602. In Canada: Remington Arms of Canada Limited, 30 Queen Elizabeth Blvd., Toronto, Ont.  
 \*Fair Trade retail prices in states having Fair Trade laws. Prices subject to change without notice.

◀ Remington's mid-60s advertisement for their Model 60 Magnum hyped the rifle's "6 ½ pounds of bolt-action fury."

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Prices subject to change without notice. Riflescopes slightly higher in Canada.

▲ Browning's High-Power rifle was offered in short, medium and standard action models.

ballistic performance of the cartridge, the rifle fared well where it mattered most: in the field.

### WEATHERBY WEIGHS IN

Another rifle/cartridge combo reaching shooters around the same time came from Weatherby, a pioneer in high-velocity shooting performance.

"The .224 Varmintmaster shares the Weatherby tradition of excellence," the advertisement began. "That tradition insists every Weatherby be a rifle of uncompromising perfection...That's why the new .224 Weatherby Varmintmaster, chambered for the only belted cartridge in existence, has the strongest, safest action ever designed."

The rifle sported a reduced version of Roy Weatherby's popular Mark V action and an attractive wooden stock, and featured a proprietary cartridge designed specifically for varmint hunting. As the advertisement stated, the cartridge was the first factory "varmint load" to feature a belted case.

Like the Remington Model 600, the rifle weighed in at 6.5 pounds, making it highly "toteable" during a full day in the field, but it didn't come cheap at nearly \$300. Produced for twenty years, the rifle was discontinued in 1994.

When the rifle was discontinued, the cartridge was renamed the Weatherby .224 Magnum.

### BROWNING POWERS UP

Although the company did not produce a corresponding cartridge, Browning marketed and sold High-Power bolt-action rifles manufactured in Belgium by FN and in Finland by Sako. These rifles came in a variety of configurations (short, medium or standard action), lengths (22- and 24-inch barrels) and calibers (16 total), featuring either a Mauser (the FN models) or Sako action.

To compound the available choices, Browning also offered three grades: Safari (the standard model), Medallion (scroll engraving), and Olympian (extensive game scene engraving).

Advertisements of the day highlighted the number of configurations available, and pitched "package" opportunities with Browning riflescopes. **GW**



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